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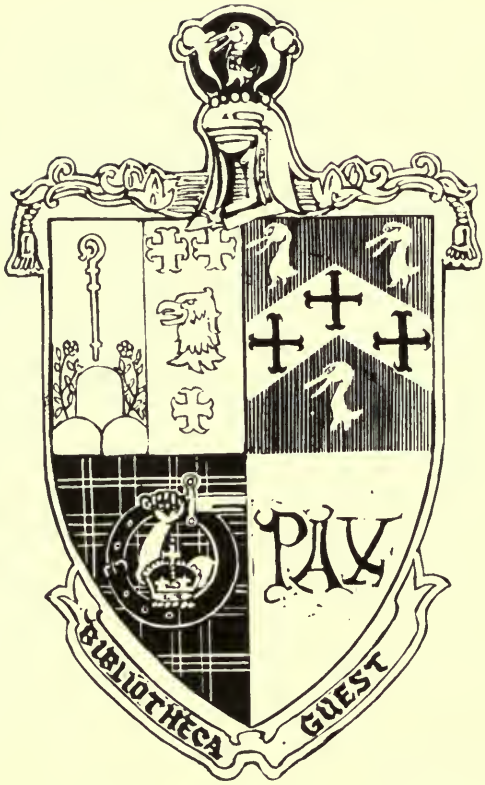

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THE

HISTORY OF THE TOWN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

OF

TAUNTON,

In the County of Somerset,

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE ACCESSION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

BY

THOMAS HUGO, M.A., F.R.S.L., F.S.A.,

&c., &c., &c.

This work, which is the result of laborious investigations pursued for the above and other purposes during many years among our Ecclesiastical and Civil Records, is intended to embrace a minutely particular History of

I.—The Town of Taunton.

II.—The Impropriated Parishes, wherever situated, of Taunton Priory, whose annals are closely connected with those of the House.

III.—The Hundred of Taunton Dean.

IV.—The Parishes, neither impropriated to the Priory nor contained in the Hundred but, within a distance of five miles from Taunton.

Under one or more of these heads are included the following Parishes:—

Taunton S. Mary Magdalene, Taunton S. James, Angersleigh, Ash Priors, Bickenhall, Bishop's Hull, Bishop's Lydeard, Bradford, Broomfield, Cheddon Fitzpayn, Clannaborough, Combe Flory, Corfe, Cotheleston, Creech S. Michael, Dulverton, Durston, Halse, Heathfield, Hillfarrance, Kingston, Lydeard S. Laurence, Ninehead, Norton Fitzwarren, Oake, Orchard Portman, Otterford, Pitminster, Ruishton, Runnington, Rympton, Staple Fitzpayn, Staplegrove, Stoke S. Mary, Thorn Falcon, Thurlbeer, Thurloxton, Tolland, Trull, West Bagborough, West Hatch, West Monkton, Willand, Wilton, and Withiel Flory.

The Author's researches among ancient MSS., both public and private, have yielded a most abundant harvest of curious and interesting details connected with the localities above enumerated, to which but few additions can now be expected, and scarcely a hundredth part of which had been committed to the press before the publication of some of his discoveries. Many of the narratives have all the particularity considered by ordinary people to be peculiar to a modern journal, instead of the meagreness that such persons are accustomed to associate with the records of occurrences which interested the men and women of centuries long ago.

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J. H. † D. C.

THE

MEDIÆVAL NUNNERIES

OF THE

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

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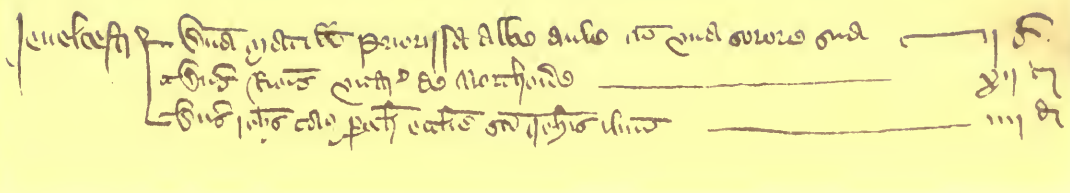

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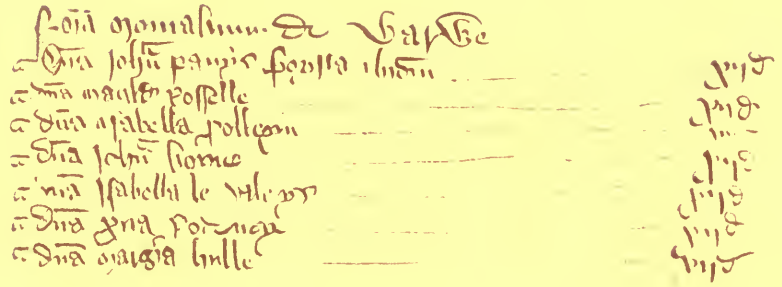

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1. From the Account of a Subsidy, 51 Edward III., 1377. (Cler. Subs. Bath and Wells, ½) History of White Hall, p. 35.

2. From the Account of a Subsidy, 51 Edward III., 1377. (Cler. Subs. Bath and Wells ½) History of Mynchin Barrow, p. 108

THE

MEDIÆVAL NUNNERIES

OF THE

COUNTY OF SOMERSET,

AND

DIOCESE OF BATH & WELLS;

TOGETHER WITH THE ANNALS OF THEIR IMPROPRIATED BENEFICES, FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE DEATH OF QUEEN MARY.

BY

THOMAS HUGO, M.A., F.R.S.L., F.S.A.,

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HONORARY FELLOW OF THE GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN;
HONORARY MEMBER OF THE SOMERSETSHIRE AND OF THE SURREY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES;
AND FELLOW AND MEMBER OF VARIOUS OTHER LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC BODIES.

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PREFACE.

In the Volume now offered to the reader I have endeavoured to supply that portion of a MONASTICON DIOECESIS BATHONIENSIS ET WELLENSIS, which includes the Houses occupied by and under the government of Religious Women, set forth with such minuteness and particularity of detail as I once entertained a hope of extending to the other division of such a work—that, namely, which would embrace the Houses of Religious Men—in one of the most interesting and beautiful of English Dioceses and Counties.

Although the following Memoirs have been specially composed for the Ecclesiastical Historian, the Antiquary, and the Topographer, all who share in the happily increasing reverence for Ancient Sisterhoods and the work of Women in holy things will find a very large amount of information, which, it is believed, is not else-

where to be met with, and that not presented in the general statements either of panegyrists or of detractors, but in the particular descriptions of actual occurrences connected with the life and habits of Mediæval Sisters. It must needs be admitted that a far more accurate knowledge of the real state of these Institutions can be obtained by the study of such memorials as those which are here assembled, descriptive as they will be found to be of the ordinary tenor and habitual routine of their existence, than by the partial selection of just one or two of their, so-considered, prominent peculiarities, and still more than by the process, falsely thought philosophical, which draws its inferences from imaginary data, instead of endeavouring to acquire, by a patient and careful study of minute facts, the means of arriving at an honest and reasonable judgment.

The particularity of detail, therefore, which to those who either have already come to their conclusions through the absence rather than the presence of investigation, or who hate the subject and grudge the time and attention which its examination requires, will appear excessive, and probably be stigmatized as an absurdity, or assailed as an evidence of retrogression and a morbid fondness for things past and gone, will for other and better minds possess a special and

peculiar charm. It is for these that the author has laboured,—men who are too honest to believe evil without an endeavour at least to arrive at the truth, and too conscious of the importance of the subject wilfully to withhold the study by which they may learn its merits.

I cannot, therefore, bring myself to offer any apology for the particularity with which many of the occurrences related in this volume are submitted to the reader's notice. In fact that very particularity is a special endeavour and an inherent ingredient in my labours. For the attainment of it I have cheerfully undertaken the careful and thorough study, demanding much time and labour, of the Episcopal Registers at Wells, and the Records of the Dean and Chapter, together with that of the vast and multifarious stores of our National Repositories, so far as the latter relate to the present subject, apart from which no history of a Somersetshire Religious House can in any good sense be complete. Mere outlines of such histories may be found elsewhere, presented with greater or less accuracy in the pages of Dugdale, Browne Willis, Tanner, Archer, Collinson, and others. My aim is, rather, to do service to those who desire to be acquainted not only with a few of the more prominent events in the annals of these institutions, but also with their inner life and particular fortunes. By devoting

attention, therefore, to individual Houses, instead of endeavouring to embrace the whole of a large district, I have been able, as I hope, to furnish my reader with a far more living picture of such establishments than he can obtain from works whose scope is wider, but whose particularity of detail is diminished in an unhappily, though perhaps necessarily, equal degree.

Of the Houses whose annals are here given very little had been offered to the reader, and that little in a most meagre and fragmentary form, previous to the publication of my papers in the Transactions of the Somersetshire Archæological Society. These have formed the groundwork of the present volume, but have been considerably augmented. One of the memoirs, indeed, has been increased to more than double its former length, while each of the others has received a large number of important additions.

The first in order—that of Mynchin Buckland—has peculiar claims on the attention of every student of Monastic History, of which, as I have elsewhere remarked, its annals form an unique and most instructive chapter. It was the only House of Sisters in England belonging to the Knights Hospitallars of S. John of Jerusalem, and occupies a singularly interesting place in the History of the Order. Apart from details connected with Conventual History

in general—as, for example, the modes of conveying landed and other property to Religious Communities, the occasional struggles which the ownership of such property involved, the burdens by which most of the greater Monasteries were oppressed during the last few years of their existence, the enumeration of the several sources of their wealth, the tyrannical spoliation of them one and all, and the process by which, after the Suppression, their possessions were transferred to the King's grantees,—the care and provident oversight of the Sisters exhibited by the earlier, at least, of the Priors of England, and their obedientiary position to those Officers, are among the more prominent features in the history of the House itself; while, as illustrations of that of the Order of the Hospital at large, may be enumerated the system and form of government of that powerful Society, the succession of its Priors in England, the relation of the provincial English Preceptories to the Head House at Clerkenwell, the annual returns made by the various Preceptors to the Prior, and by him to the Grand Master of the Order, and the mode of leasing their estates to their several tenant farmers in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

The Histories of Cannington and Mynchin Barrow are full of details illustrative of the

usages of a Mediæval Sisterhood, whether appertaining to its ordinary routine, or to the rarer occurrences of monastic life. In addition to those to which I have already referred as generally belonging to Conventual history, connected with the accumulation, through long centuries, of their property, and their final dissolution, I would direct the reader to others which will probably be entirely new to him, the rights of the Sisters as patrons of their impropriated Churches and Chaplaincies, the merciful yet vigilant supervision of the Diocesan, the education, dress, and manners of our English Nuns, their agreeable connection with the neighbourhood of their House, and the buildings which constituted their home. Nor ought I to omit what to many a reader will probably be as interesting as any,—the proceedings consequent on the infrequent event of a Visitation for the correction of irregularities, and the curious details connected with the election of the Superiors both when unanimous and contested, which I have given him with a particularity for which he will not blame me, the order of procedure in such cases, in all its stages, the very names and votes of the electing Sisters, and the various certificates which provided for, and attested, the due performance of all the canonical requirements on those important occasions. The records connected with several of

these episodes of Conventual life are as complete as any which I have noticed in the archives of other Dioceses. Indeed I may be allowed to add that, while the reader is studying the records of these Somersetshire Houses, he is making himself master of the history of most elsewhere, which are closely similar to them in their general features, and thereby is obtaining a knowledge, not only of those immediately before him, but of Mediæval Sisterhoods in general.

The memoir of White Hall reveals a picture which truth has obliged me to paint in its real colours. The scene which it appears to have presented, notwithstanding the care and admirable measures for the prevention of irregularities, unless we suppose that a part only, and that the worst, of its history is recorded, was happily as rare as it was repulsive.

It will not be amiss, as the detail is so considerable, to furnish a short inventory of some of the points of interest above alluded to, with references to the places where they occur :—

I. Profession of Nuns. M. Barrow, pp. 11, 37, 38, 82.

II. Particularity and caution in Elections of Superiors. Cannington, pp. 15—21, 29, 48, 59, 124, 130, 131. M. Barrow, pp. 10, 11, 14—19, 22, 36, 40, 83, 84, 104, 105. White Hall, pp. 18, 19.

III. Process of Elections. Cannington, pp. 25—28, 124, 130. M. Barrow, pp. 17, 18, 20—22, 49, 50.

IV. Vigilant Supervision of Diocesan. Cannington, pp. 30—33, 106, 107, 123, 126, 131. M. Barrow, pp. 8, 9, 13, 31, 32, 36, 48, 81, 94, 105, 106. White Hall, pp. 18, 19, 24—26, 28—30, 78.

V. Nuns' Chaplains and Confessors. M. Buckland, pp. 22, 55, 75, 80, 81, 101, 125, 126, 230, 233. Cannington, pp. 22, 23, 30, 40, 41, 51, 65, 73, 105, 109. M. Barrow, pp. 23, 47, 87. White Hall, pp. 24, 36, 38, 78, 81, 83, 85.

VI. Custodians of Nunneries. M. Barrow, pp. 10, 12—14, 81, 82, 83, 104. White Hall, pp. 19, 21—24, 25, 28, 78, 79.

VII. Education in Nunneries. M. Buckland, pp. 106, 107. Cannington, pp. 64, 65.

VIII. Dress of Nuns. M. Buckland, p. 107. Cannington, p. 65.

IX. Non-inclusion of Nuns, and intercourse with neighbours. Cannington, pp. 33, 50, 62, 63. M. Barrow, pp. 9, 47, 48.

X. Safe Asylum in Nunneries. Cannington, pp. 13, 14, 28, 61, 62, 104, 105, 106.

XI. Proceedings relating to grants of property. M. Buckland, pp. 6, 7, 12—19, 37, 38, 39, 60, 61, 70, 71, 77, 78, 84—87, 88—91, 116—123, 214, 218—220, 227—229. Cannington, pp. 23, 34, 37, 38, 40, 41, 105, 107—110, 125. M. Barrow, pp.

23—28, 30, 31, 84—94. White Hall, pp. 3—13, 15, 16, 33—35, 36, 38—41, 71—76, 81—85.

XII. Patronage of Nuns. Cannington, pp. 35—60.

XIII. Corrodies in Nunneries. Cannington, pp. 36, 37, 108, 129, 130.

XIV. System of the Order of the Hospital. M. Buckland, pp. 3—5, 51—56, 101.

XV. Supervision of the Priors. M. Buckland, pp. 12, 13, 19, 21, 22, 43, 56, 216—218, 220, 221.

XVI. Tenant Farmers of the Order. M. Buckland, pp. 78—85, 87, 88, 152, 154, 155, 229—232.

Together with the annals of the Houses themselves, I have given those of their Impropriated Benefices, as the history of each is oftentimes so closely connected, and so mutually illustrative, that a knowledge of the one is absolutely necessary for the due understanding of the position of the other.

The several Appendices will be found to contain a most important and valuable Collection of Documents of many and very diversified kinds. By far the greater part of them are now printed for the first time, while the few which have previously been committed to the press are now presented with that accuracy the former lack of which was such as to make their re-publication most desirable. I have given them in their

original form, only placing apostrophe commas in the stead of those marks of contraction, with which mediæval writings are known to abound, but which the fount of the printer did not supply; as, in the first place, they thus present a more exact likeness to their prototypes than if compelled to wear a modern dress, and, secondly, are quite as easily intelligible for the eyes for which they are intended as they would be under any other form. A few moments' study of each will enable the practiced archæologist to read them without difficulty, while to all others they would be unintelligible under whatsoever garb they were submitted to their examination.

The index of places will, I believe, be very useful to the topographical enquirer, as it will direct him to facts relating to a large number of localities both in the neighbourhood of the Houses themselves and in various parts of the country, while it will furnish the genealogist with a clue to various members of numerous families connected with the same either by ownership or by office.

Until very nearly the whole had been printed, I intended to issue each history as an independent volume. This will account for the separate pagination and some few repetitions of explanations in the foot notes. Upon a review, however, of the finished work, I am convinced that it will

be far better to send them forth to the world in each other's company. The reader will thus have before him, as I have already remarked, the annals of all our Somersetshire Nunneries at a single view. He will be able to compare the state of one with that of another at any particular period, and to observe the points of similarity or the reverse in every detail and phase of their condition. And he will be able to assure himself that within the dimensions of a volume not exceptionally cumbrous he is in possession of an entire department of the Monastic History of an interesting and lovely region.

I have already enumerated a series of subjects connected with our English Sisterhoods, about which these pages will offer ample details. There are, however, one or two yet remaining, of special value and importance, which I have reserved for the following Introduction, as constituting the portal as it were to the Convent itself, apart from a knowledge of which we can scarcely realize in any due and substantial measure the position of a Mediæval Nun.

I am well aware that these and similar illustrations might be multiplied to almost any extent. I hope, however, that, with those which are incidentally furnished by the Memoirs themselves, what I have given will be sufficient to put the reader in a position to take a tolerably clear view

of the subject of this volume, not only in connexion with those Communities whose annals are here presented, which is of course my first object, but with the Sisterhoods in general of Mediæval England.

I desire, however, very humbly to suggest, that if any one of my readers should have it in his power to favour me with the least additional information about these Somersetshire Houses, I should be most thankful for its communication, how profitless and unimportant soever it may appear to him to be. It is true that I cannot expect to add much to my acquisitions, but the little that may be offered would not be without its value. For it not unfrequently happens that an acquaintance with isolated facts of seeming worthlessness is an aid towards the attainment of most valuable knowledge; inasmuch as such facts are not only important in other and more direct ways, but also are discovered to be connecting links between particulars which previously appeared distant from or without any reference to each other, and thus become elucidations of difficulties which would otherwise continue to be hopelessly obscure.

I have now the pleasing duty of acknowledging the kindness with which I have been favoured in the course of these researches.

To the Dean and Chapter of Wells, from whom

I have received unreserved permission to make what use I pleased of their most interesting and valuable records; to the Keeper of the Episcopal Registers in the same City; to the various Officers of the Record Repository in London, for the more than official courtesy with which they have ever endured the amount of trouble necessarily inflicted by one who has gone through long years of continuous investigation for the present and other works; to the Lambeth Librarian for allowing me access to the Archiepiscopal Registers there; and to the Society of Antiquaries for the loan of the wood-cut of the Mynchin Buckland sepulchral slab, from a rubbing of mine formerly exhibited to the Society, I respectfully tender my best acknowledgments and most sincere and grateful thanks.

While I neither feel nor profess any deference to those to whom I have before alluded,—people who have made up their minds from ignorance and ill-will rather than from knowledge and a desire for truth—I shall cheerfully submit to the criticism of the few who have undertaken similar labours, and are accordingly in a position to judge with accuracy, as I am sure that such men will with kindness and candour, of the result now submitted to their study.

My last word shall be to all, of what sort and condition soever, into whose hands these pages

may come. I entreat them to believe me when I say that if one desire more than another has influenced me during the progress of these pleasant labours, it has been that I might discover and disseminate truth. I have written in no spirit of controversy, but as one who looks upon history as a sacred thing, and upon his own connexion with, researches in it, and facilities for its investigation as matters about which he will have to render an account. I have no unworthy purpose to carry out, no party to flatter, no private cause to serve. I regard with sovereign contempt and unutterable loathing the endeavours through which during several centuries Englishmen have been attempted to be blinded and befooled by those with whom such aims have been and are paramount. If I have shown, as I doubtless have, on which side my sympathies rest, and to which my love and respect are paid, the effect has been produced, solely and entirely, by the evidences which I have found of traits that deserve such tribute. The study of the records of mediæval times has been one of the happiest occupations of a large part of my life, and the longer I am employed and the deeper I proceed in the examination of the ages which they illustrate the more profound is my respect and the more cordial is my admiration of their manifold excellencies. Some of my readers may

disagree with my estimate, contrary as it is to all their previous fancies. Instead of forcing them to acquiescence, I have enabled them to arrive at the opposite conclusion, if it be their pleasure so to do, by giving them data through which they may, if they can, make good their objection. This will at least acquit me of intentional deception, and will also, I hope, plead somewhat for the correctness of my own view. Let each of those who read this book be as supremely desirous of arriving at the truth as he has been who wrote it, and the result shall be that with which I for one shall be fully satisfied, however it may offend those who can see no virtue but in party, and no excellence but within the narrow bounds of their own petty domain.

THOMAS HUGO.

London,
Easter Monday, 1867.

INTRODUCTION.

As already stated, I have reserved for this place several particulars, the insertion of which would have made too wide a severance in the continuity of either of the following Memoirs, but a knowledge of which is absolutely essential to the due appreciation of the position of a Mediæval Nun.

1. The first is a description of that solemn Office which separated her from the ordinary avocations of secular life, and affixed to her an indelible character for all subsequent time. I shall take for my authorities the directions contained in some original Service Books of the fourteenth century, where the entire ceremonial is most minutely described.

The Consecration of a Virgin—so runs the Order—shall be performed on Holy Days, that is

to say, either in Epiphany, or on Festivals of S. Mary, or of the Apostles, or on Sundays. The Virgins to be dedicated, after the introit of the Mass and the Collect, and before the Epistle is read, shall come before the Altar, clothed in white, each holding the habit of religion in her right, and an unlighted taper in her left hand, and shall lay the habit at the feet of the Bishop before the altar, while she holds the taper in her hand. Then the Bishop shall bless the habit in form following—omitting "The Lord be with you:"—"Deus Qui vestimentum," "Deus eternorum bonorum," and "Domine Deus bonarum virtutum dator," etc.* Then shall the vestments be sprinkled with holy water, and the Bishop and no other shall give the Virgins the vestment of virginity, and say, "Receive, damsel, this cloke, or vestment, which thou mayest bear without spot before the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom every knee doth bow, of things in heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth. Who with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth God, world without end. Amen." If more than one Virgin be to be consecrated, this shall be repeated for each. Then the Epistle shall be

* I have not thought it necessary to give entire the prayers of the consecrating Bishop, but sufficient to suggest the subject of each. The parts of the Service appropriated to the Nun I have given in full, both in the original and in translation.

read, and the Mass be performed as far as after the Creed. In the mean while the Virgins, with their vestments or clokes, shall go into the vestry to the sacrarium, and shall attire themselves in the vestments so blest, the veils, and rings, and papers of profession remaining on the altar. In some ancient offices it was ordered that each of the Virgins should make the responses and sing the antiphons one by one, but afterwards, on account of the length of time which such a practice necessitated, and for other sufficient reasons, it was directed that they should sing them together. It often happened that, out of modesty on the one hand, and the excitement of the occasion on the other, the Virgin beginning her antiphon was unable to finish it. The Bishop, however, was to repeat to each the words which were appointed for him to address to them. The Mass shall then be performed to the Gospel inclusive. Then shall follow the Creed. The Virgins shall then come into the Choir, with the tapers now first lighted in their right hands, and standing within the gate of the Choir shall say, together or singly, the Bishop sitting upon the faldstool, "Amo Christum, in Cujus thalamum introivi, Cujus Mater Virgo est, Cujus Pater feminam nescit; Cujus michi organa modulatis vocibus cantant; Quem cum amavero casta sum, cum tetigero munda sum, cum accepero virgo

sum." "Mel et lac ex Ejus ore suscepi, et sanguis Ejus ornavit genas meas. Quem cum &c." "I love Christ, into Whose chamber I have entered; Whose Mother is a Virgin, Whose Father knew not woman; Whose instruments sing to me with measured voices; Whom when I shall have loved, I am chaste; when I shall have touched, I am clean; when I shall have received, I am a Virgin. Honey and milk from His mouth have I taken, and His blood hath adorned my cheeks." After this the Virgins shall stand in order, and wait for the call of the Bishop, who shall thrice say, as they meanwhile kneel, "Come, come, come," —The Choir shall answer:—"Ye daughters, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Alleluia." They shall then advance with the lighted tapers in their hands a little space through the middle of the Choir, and there wait for the end of the antiphon and a sign from those with the Bishop. The antiphon ended, the Virgins shall genuflect to the ground, and rising and advancing somewhat shall sing: "Et nunc sequimur ex toto corde, et timemus Te." "And now we follow from our whole heart, and fear Thee." Then shall the Bishop say the second time, "Come, come, come,"—Choir:— "Ye daughters, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Alleluia." While the Choir responds, the Virgins rising from their

genuflection shall proceed to the second station, singing, "Et nunc sequimur ex toto corde, et timemus Te." Meanwhile, as they come to the third station, the Bishop shall say again, "Come, come, come,"—The Choir shall answer:—"Ye daughters, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Alleluia." Then shall two singers add this verse: "Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be confounded." Again shall be repeated, "Ye daughters, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord." Meanwhile the Virgins shall rise from their genuflection, and shall advance slowly to the step of the altar, singing "Et nunc sequimur in toto corde, et timemus Te, et querimus faciem Tuam. Domine, non confundas nos, sed fac nobis juxta mansuetudinem Tuam, et secundum multitudinem misericordie Tue." "And now we follow in our whole heart, and fear Thee, and seek Thy face. O Lord, confound us not, but do unto us according to Thy loving kindness, and according to the multitude of Thy mercy." Then shall the Bishop prostrate himself on the carpet, with his face towards the altar, and an attendant also with his face towards the altar, and shall say the seven psalms; and the Virgins behind him shall lie on knees and arms on the carpet, while two clerks shall sing a common Litany, the Choir responding. When they

shall arrive at the verse appointed for the Bishop, he shall rise and stand with his face towards the Virgins, and shall say "That it may please Thee to bless and preserve these our Sisters in true religion." The Choir shall answer, "We beseech Thee." Again the Bishop :—"That it may please Thee to bless, sanctify, and preserve these our Sisters in true religion." Choir :—"We beseech Thee." Bishop :—"That it may please Thee to bless, sanctify, and consecrate, and to preserve these our Sisters in true religion." Choir :—"We beseech Thee." Then shall the Clerks continue the Litany to the end. Meanwhile the Bishop shall prostrate himself to the end of the Litany. After which he shall rise and begin festivè the hymn "Veni Creator Spiritus," the Choir responding. After this is finished, the Virgins shall rise and come before the step of the altar, and shall, one after another, make their profession thus :— "Ego N. soror promitto stabilitatem meam, et conversionem morum meorum, et obedienciam coram Deo omnibusque Sanctis Ejus, secundum regulam Sancti Benedicti, in loco isto qui est constructus in honore Sancte Marie, et in presencia Domini N. Episcopi, vel Abbatisse N., vel Priorisse N." Or thus :—"Ego soror N. offerens trado meipsam divine pietati, in hac ecclesia Deo servituram, et promitto stabilitatem et morum meorum conversionem et emendacionem, secun-

dum regulam Sancti Augustini, et tibi domine N. hujus ecclesie Abbatisse (sive Priorisse) et successoribus tuis obedienciam, in presencia venerabilis patris nostri permissione divina N. Episcopi suffraganei N. Episcopi, et propria manu subscribo." "I sister N., promise my steadfastness, and the regulation of my manners, and obedience, in the presence of God and of all His Saints, according to the rule of S. Benedict, in the place which is erected in honor of S. Mary, and in the presence of Lord N. Bishop, or of Abbess N., or of Prioress N." Or thus :— "I sister N., offer and deliver myself to the divine compassion, to serve God in this Church, and promise my steadfastness, and the regulation and amendment of my manners, according to the rule of S. Augustine, and obedience to you Lady N., Abbess, or Prioress, of this Church, and to your successors, in the presence of our venerable Father, by divine permission, N. Bishop suffragan of N. Bishop, and with my own hand subscribe,"—making at the same time a cross at the end of the profession. The use in some places was, that while the Bishop stood at the middle of the altar, with his face turned towards the west, each of the Virgins, by herself, should read her profession, standing at the right corner of the altar, with her face towards the Bishop, and should make a cross

at the end of her profession upon the altar. These documents so read the Bishop shall take from the altar after mass, and deliver them to the Abbess or Prioress to be preserved in the treasury. According to the use in other places, the Virgins stood at the middle of the altar step, before the Bishop sitting upon the faldstool with his face towards them, when one after the other read her profession, and made a cross at the end of her profession upon the knees of the Bishop, which the Bishop delivered to the Abbess or Prioress, sitting on the step near him, to be preserved in the treasury. This being done by them one by one, the Virgins to be dedicated standing on the step of the altar, or, according to some, lying prostrate, shall say thrice this verse, the second time higher than the first, and the third time higher than the second,—"Suscipe me, Domine, secundum eloquium Tuum, et vivam, et non confundas me ab expectatione mea." "Raise Thou me up, O Lord, according to Thy word, and I shall live, and let me not be disappointed of my hope." The Choir shall repeat the verse thrice, and then "Glory be to the Father," and "As it was," and shall add "Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison." The Virgins, although hitherto standing, shall now prostrate themselves before the altar; the Bishop and Choir, omitting the "And lead us not," saying the psalm, "Lord,

who shall dwell?" with "Glory be to the Father," and "As it was." Then the Bishop shall say as follows:—"Save Thine handmaids, O Lord." Choir:—"My God, who put their trust in Thee." "Bishop:—"Send them help, O Lord, from Thy holy place." Choir:—"And strengthen them out of Sion." Bishop:—"Be to them, O Lord, a tower of strength." Choir:—"From the face of the enemy." Bishop:—"Let the enemy have no advantage over them." Choir:—"And let not the son of wickedness approach to hurt them." Bishop:—"Lord, hear my prayer." Choir:—"And let my cry come unto Thee." Bishop:—"The Lord be with you. "Lord, we pray Thee that Thy grace may ever bless these Thy servants, and lead them blameless unto eternal life, through our Lord." This ended, the Virgins shall rise from their prostration, and shall advance with the Bishop to the right corner of the altar, and receiving the veils from the altar, and holding them in their hands, standing with their faces towards the Bishop, shall sing "Ancilla Christi sum, ideo me ostendo servilem personam." "I am the handmaid of Christ, and thus show myself His devoted servant." The Bishop shall answer "Alleluia. Summa ingenuitas ista est in qua servitus Christi comprobatur." "Perfect freedom is that wherein the service of Christ is approved." Then shall follow the benediction

of the veil, with "Let us pray." "Suppliciter Te, Domine, rogamus, ut super has vestes Tuarum capitibus ancillarum imponendas benediccio Tua benigniter descendat, &c." "Visibilium & invisibilium Creator Deus, adesto propicius, &c." "We humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, that upon these vestments, to be placed on the heads of Thine handmaids, Thy blessing may graciously descend." "O God, the Creator of things, visible and invisible, be favourably present &c." Then shall the Virgins approach the Bishop, and shall hand their tapers to some one of their co-sisters, with lowered heads, and shall each receive the veil from the hands of the Bishop, which he shall place on the head of each of them, saying "Take, Virgin of Christ, the veil, the symbol of virginity and continence, by which the Holy Ghost may come upon thee, and the virtue of the Highest may overshadow thee, against the heat of evil temptations, by the aid of the same our Lord Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth, &c." When they receive the veil they shall kiss the Bishop's hand. The same shall be repeated for each, if there be more than one. Then they shall begin this antiphon "Induit me Dominus ciclade auro texta, & immensis monilibus ornavit me." "The Lord hath clothed me with a robe woven with gold, and with measureless necklaces hath He adorned me." Ans. "Alleluia."

Then shall follow the benediction of the ring, with "Let us pray." "Creator et Conservator humani generis, Dator gracie spiritualis, et Largitor eterne salutis, Tu, Domine, mitte benediccionem Tuam super hos anulos, ut que illos gestaverint sint armate virtute celestis defensionis, ut proficiant illis ad eternam salutem. Per Christum Dominum." "Benedic, Domine Jesu Christe, anulos istos, fidei signacula, quos ancille Tue in signum federis Tui gestature sunt, ut in Tua dileccione perpetue maneant copulate, et eas sine macula custodias in eternum. Qui vivis et regnas cum Deo Patre, etc." "Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of spiritual grace, and Bestower of everlasting salvation, do Thou, O Lord, send Thy blessing upon these rings, that they who shall have worn them may be armed with the might of heavenly succour, that they may aid them to everlasting salvation, through Christ our Lord." "Bless, O Lord Jesus Christ, these rings, the seals of faith, which Thine handmaids are to wear for a sign of Thy covenant, that they may ever remain united in Thy love, and that Thou mayest keep them without spot for ever. Who livest and reignest with the Father, &c." Then shall they be sprinkled with holy water, and the Bishop shall place a ring on the fourth finger of each Virgin, and shall say:—Accipe anulum, fidei signaculum, Spiritus Sancti ut sponsa

Dei voceris et sis, atque illum perferas ante Agnum sponsum tuum Jesum Christum in die celestium nupciarum, si Ei fideliter servieris." "Take the ring, seal of faith, that thou mayest be called, and mayest be, the bride of God the Holy Ghost, and mayest bear it before the Lamb, thy Spouse, Jesus Christ, in the day of the heavenly nuptials, if thou shalt have served Him faithfully." This shall be repeated for each, if more than one. Then shall they sing this antiphon:—"Anulo Suo subaravit me Dominus meus Jesus Christus, et tanquam sponsam decoravit me corona." "With His own ring hath my Lord Jesus Christ espoused me, and as a bride hath adorned me with a crown." Ans. "Alleluia." Then the Bishop shall take the ring from the finger of each Virgin, and shall say to each, "Desponso te Jesu Christo filio Summi Patris, Qui te illesam custodiat, et ab omni malo defendat." "I betroth thee to Jesus Christ, the Son of the Most High Father, Who, I pray, may keep thee harmless, and defend thee from all evil." Then, beginning on the thumb, he shall say "In nomine Patris," making a cross on the fore-finger; "et Filii," making a cross on the middle finger; "et Spiritus," making a cross on the ring finger, "Sancti. Amen."—making another cross. This shall be repeated for each. This done, they shall sing this antiphon:—"Ipsi sum desponsata, Cui angeli serviunt, Cujus pulcritudinem sol et

luna mirantur." "I am betrothed to Him Whom angels serve, Whose beauty sun and moon admire." Ans. "Alleluia." Then shall the Bishop say this prayer for the graces of purity and perseverance:—Te invocamus, Domine, Sancte Pater, etc." Here the Bishop, or some other in his name, shall pronounce a ban, that no one under pain of excommunication shall by any authority presume to violate their holy purpose. Then the Virgins professed shall take their tapers again, and prostrate themselves before the Bishop for the benediction to be pronounced over them. Then the Bishop shall say "The Lord be with you. Let us pray. We beseech thee, O Lord, look mercifully upon these Thy servants, &c.," adding in a low voice, "Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. The Lord be with you. Lift up your hearts. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. It is very meet, and just, and right, and salutary, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God. O merciful Indweller in chaste bodies, and Lover of uncorrupt souls, etc." "Look down, O Lord, upon these Thy servants, who placing in Thine hand the purpose of their continency offer to Thee their devotion, from Whom the same have taken the vow," etc., etc. "Sit in eis, Domine, per

donum Spiritus Tui, prudens modestia, sapiens benignitas, gravis levitas, casta libertas. In caritate ferveant, et nichil extra Te diligant, laudabiliter vivant, laudarique non appetant. Te in sanctitate corporum, Te in animorum suorum puritate glorificent. Amore Te timeant, mentibusque castis Tibi serviant: Tu eis honor sis, Tu gaudium, Tu voluptas: Tu in merore solatium, Tu in ambiguitate sis consilium, in injuria defensio, in tribulacione paciencia, in paupertate habundancia, in jejunio cibus, in infirmitate sis eis medicus et medicina: Te in mente habeant, et in Te habeant omnia, quem diligere appetunt super omnia. Quod sunt professe custodiant, scrutatori peccatorum non corpore placiture sed mente," etc. Then the benediction—a part of which also I cannot do better than give in its original beauty:—"Benedicat vos Deus Pater, et Filius, et Spiritus Sanctus, omni benediccione spirituali, ut maneatis incorrupte, inviolate, et immaculate, sub vestimento Sancte Marie, Matris Domini nostri Jesu Christi. Amen. Requiescat super vos Spiritus septiformis Dei, Spiritus sapiencie et intellectus, Spiritus consilii et fortitudinis, Spiritus sciencie et pietatis, et repleat vos Spiritus timoris Domini. Amen. Fragilitates vestras Dominus solidet: fidei constancia vos roboret, validasque confirmet, pietate allevet, miseracione conservet. Amen. Mentes vestras

regat, vias vestras dirigat, cogitaciones sanctas in vobis instituat. Amen. Actus vestros probet, opera bona in vobis perficiat, caritate vos edificet, sapiencia vos illuminet, castitate vos muniat, sciencia vos instruat. Amen. In virtute multiplicet, in sanctitate sublimet, ad sapienciam vos preparet, ad obedienciam vos subdat, in humilitate prosternat. Amen. Ad continenciam vobis det fortitudinem, reddat vos sobrias, protegat pudicas, in infirmitate visitet, in dolore vos relevet, in temptacione vos erigat, in conversacione custodiat, in prosperitate vos temperet, in iracundia vos mitiget, iniquitatem in vobis emendet. Amen. Infundat in vobis graciam, remittat vobis offensas, tribuat disciplinam, ut hiis et similibus virtutibus fulte, et sanctis operibus illustrate, illa semper studeatis agere que digna fiant Deo in eterna remuneracione. Amen." etc. Then shall the Bishop proceed to the altar, and turning himself to the people shall say, "The Lord be with you. Let us pray." The office said, the Bishop shall turn himself to receive the offering, and the Virgins professed, committing their tapers to some of their co-sisters, one after another, the elders first, shall offer to the hands of the Bishop an offering of bread and wine, from which they shall afterwards be communicated in this manner. The Virgins with both hands covered with a linen cloth shall hold seve-

rally in the right hand a paten with the host, and in the left a small vessel with the wine; and proceeding in order, to make their offering, shall put the host from their patens into the paten which the Deacon holds. The Bishop shall then receive the vessel from the hand of the Virgin, and shall pour the wine into the chalice, the hand of the Bishop having been first kissed. After this is done to each, the Bishop shall cover the face by drawing the veil before the eyes of each. Then all together or each for herself shall sing "Posuit signum in faciem meam ut nullum preter Eum amatorem admittam." "He hath placed a mark upon my face, that I should admit no lover but Him." When this is sung, the Virgins shall take again their tapers, and shall be led back into the Choir, and shall stand there inclined, or prostrate, before the step of the altar until a sign be made to them by the Bishop's attendants. Then shall the people make their offering, each according to his devotion. This ended, and a sermon, if agreeable, on the praise of virginal chastity, the Bishop shall perform mass as far as "Our Father." And while it is being sung, by the teaching of one of the attendants, the Virgins shall be led back from the Choir to the step of the altar, and while they are prostrate or kneeling on the step the Bishop shall say "For ever and ever." Ans. "Amen." Then shall the Deacon say

"Bend for the blessing." Then the Bishop turning to the people, with the mitre on his head and the staff in his hand, shall say this blessing:—"Pour out, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy heavenly blessing upon these Thy servants, N. and N. our Sisters, who devoutly humble themselves under Thy right hand: protect them with divine protection, &c." "Grant that they may ever obey Thy divine precepts, that by Thy aid they may conquer the fires of the flesh, and may overcome every lust of evil desire by the love of chastity, may have in them the oil of sanctity, and rejoice with lamps everlasting. Amen. May they bear in their hands the torches of holiness, and with the wise and most chaste souls, Christ being their guide, merit to enter the gate of the heavenly kingdom. Amen. Which may He vouchsafe to grant, Whose kingdom and power abideth for ever and ever. Amen. The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Ghost, descend upon you, and remain with you always. Amen." Then shall he return to the altar, and taking again the Body of Christ in his hand shall say, "And may His peace be ever with you." Ans. "And with Thy spirit." Then he shall say "Lamb of God," and so to the post-communion. Then each of the Virgins, rising to receive the communion, shall come to the altar, and kneeling at

the Bishop's left hand, with faces always veiled, shall kiss the altar and then the Bishop's hand; and so shall the Body of Christ be given to each by the Bishop, who shall say "Corpus Domini nostri Jesu Christi prosit tibi ad salutem corporis, et ad remedium anime tue in vitam eternam. Amen." Then they shall rise and proceed to the right corner of the altar to receive from a priest thereunto deputed the ablution of the wine. They shall then stand and sing "Ecce, quod concupivi jam video, quod speravi jam teneo. Illi sum juncta in celis Quem in terris posita tota devocione dilexi." "Behold, what I have desired now I see, what I have hoped for now I hold. I am united to Him in heaven, Whom on earth I have loved with entire devotion." According to some uses, they were to stand each in her order at the step of the altar. The Bishop, after he has received, shall place the Body of Christ in the paten, and turning to the Virgins shall give the Body of Christ to each kneeling on the step of the altar, the "Confiteor," "Misereatur," and "Absolutionem" having been previously said by the Bishop and them. This done, the Bishop shall return to the altar, and shall perform the ablution of the chalice, and the mass as far as after the prayer "Placeat Tibi, Sancta Trinitas." Then shall the Bishop turn himself to the Virgins, and each of them one by

one shall first kneel and kiss the Bishop's hand, and shall offer to him their tapers, and then over them all, as they kneel together on the step of the altar, he shall give his benediction thus :— "Benedicat vos Omnipotens Deus, Pater +, et Filius +, et Spiritus Sanctus +." "Almighty God bless you, the Father, +, and the Son +, and the Holy Ghost +." With these words the solemn service concluded. Then the Virgins shall rise, and be conducted back to the Choir, all singing as they go "Regnum mundi et omnem ornatum seculi contempsi, propter amorem Domini mei Jesu Christi, Quem vidi, Quem amavi, in Quem credidi, Quem dilexi." Ans. "Eructavit cor meum verbum bonum : dico ego opera mea regi. Quem." "The kingdom of the world and all the pride of life I have despised, for the love of my Lord Jesus Christ, Whom I have seen, Whom I have loved, in Whom I have believed, Whom I have chosen." "My heart hath given forth a good word: I speak of my works unto the King. Whom," etc. And so, continues the rubric, they shall continue in perfect silence for three days, and every day they should receive the Communion, and put off or change nothing whatever of the garments which they wore when they received benediction save only their shoes, but both, by day and by night, with psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, more with devotion of heart than modula-

tion of voice, they shall earnestly apply themselves to serve their Lord Christ, to Whom they have devoted themselves, and shall stand last at all the hours until the third day. The Bishop, however, it is added, had power,—and the Abbess or Prioress, if so allowed by the Bishop,—to dispense for reasonable cause with so much of this regulation as should seem to him expedient.*

With this agrees the Office in Bishop Lacy's Pontifical, used during the time of that prelate in the Diocese of Exeter, but the ceremonial as therein detailed is not quite so elaborate.

In the case of a Nun who had been blest without profession, through want of time, the omission was to be repaired as follows:—On any festival that he thought proper, the Bishop was to sing mass, and after the Gospel was to begin the psalm, "Miserere mei, Deus," with "Gloria Patri." This being sung by all, the Virgin was to advance before the altar, and read her profession "Ego soror." The prayers "Presta, quesumus, Omnipotens Deus," "Deus, Qui famulam," "Deus, Qui per coeternum Filium," and "Domine Jesu Christe," by the Bishop followed, who then with a loud voice commenced the hymn "Veni Creator Spiritus." The Virgin then rose, and advanced to the Bishop who placed the veil over her eyes, after which she again prostrated her-

* MS. Harl. 561. ff. 98—107. MS. Cott. Vesp. D. 1. ff. 78—81.

self. The Bishop then began the psalm "Lauda Jerusalem," and continued with the prayers "Dominus clemens," "Clementissime Dominator," and "Omnipotens et misericors Dominus."*

A Mediæval Convent, however, not unfrequently contained those who had not devoted their whole life to the duties of the cloister. Widows and other women of middle age oftentimes found a rest within its walls. For the profession of such the following form was appointed. On any feast day that the Bishop shall appoint, he shall robe himself in pontifical vestments, with sandals, dalmatic, rings, mitre, and pastoral staff, during which the customary prayers shall be sung by the Clerks thereunto assigned. The Bishop shall then rise and wash his hands, and say the usual prayers. Then shall he go to the altar, and celebrate mass, until after the repetition of Alleluia. Then he shall seat himself on a faldstool fitly placed before the middle of the altar, with his face turned toward the west. In the mean while the woman about to profess shall advance through the lower gate of the Choir, with two or three Sisters accompanying her, carrying the habit of religion on her left arm, wherein shall be fixed the veil with the ring; and shall hold in her right hand the written form of profession on which she shall

* MS. Cott. Tib. B. VIII. ff. 135—145.

direct her full gaze. Then, while she is advancing towards the altar, the Bishop with his Ministers shall say in a moderate voice, the Clerk or Choir making alternate responses, "Miserere mei, Deus," with "Gloria Patri" and "Sicut erat." The habit, veil and ring having been previously laid at the Bishop's feet, and the psalm finished, the woman about to profess, standing on the middle step of the altar, shall read openly her profession, "Ego, Soror," etc., as before. Which read, she shall kneel and make a cross with a pen at the end of the profession on the knee of the Bishop, and shall kiss his hand. Then she shall rise and prostrate herself on the carpet or the ground before the lower step of the altar; over whom thus prostrate the Bishop standing shall say, "Oremus." "Presta, quesumus, omnipotens Deus, huic famule Tue renuncianti," etc. "Deus, Qui hanc famulam Tuam," etc. "Tu famulam Tuam," etc. "Deus, Qui per coeternum Filium," etc. and "Domine Jesu Christe," etc. Then shall she be lifted up, and, the veil and ring being put aside, the Bishop shall bless the habit, saying "Adjutorium nostrum" and the customary prayers, as before, and shall sprinkle the habit with holy water, and put it on her, saying "Receive, servant of Christ, the vestment," etc., as before. He shall then turn with his Ministers kneeling at the altar, the woman prostrate behind him, and shall begin with

a loud voice "Veni Creator Spiritus;" after which the Bishop shall rise, and turning to the woman shall say "Oremus." "Sancte Spiritus, Qui Te Deum ac Dominum revelare dignatus es," etc. Here the Nun shall rise from the earth, and, after the Bishop shall have blessed the veil, as before, a Priest, and not the Bishop, shall place it on the head of the woman, while the Bishop shall say "Receive, servant of Christ, the veil, symbol of continence and chastity," etc., as before. The Bishop shall then bless the ring, and afterwards deliver it to her, with the words "Receive, servant of Christ, the ring, the sign of faith, protection of chastity, token of heavenly wedlock, which before the face of the Lamb thy Spouse, our Lord Jesus Christ, thou mayest devoutly bear and chastely guard, until thou come to the embraces of thy Divine Spouse to receive thy crown in the day of heavenly nuptials. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." Then shall the Bishop draw the veil over her eyes, beginning the antiphon "Beati eritis," and the psalm, "Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, praise Thy God, O Sion," but without "Glory be to the Father," or "As it was," but "Blessed shall ye be when men shall hate you, and shall separate from you, and shall revile and cast out your name as evil for the Son of Man's sake.

Rejoice and be glad, for, behold, great is your reward in heaven." The Choir shall answer "Alleluia." Then, as she kneels, the Bishop standing over her shall say "Deus clemens est," and, as she lies prostrate, "Oremus." "Clementissime Dominator," etc., adding in a low voice "Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum," etc. "The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit," etc., as before. If of the order of S. Augustine or S. Francis, thus :—"et ad religiosam vocare dignatus es obseruanciam," etc. Then shall be read the Gospel, and, while the office is being sung by the Choir, the professed shall advance and make her offering kneeling to the Bishop's hand, which she shall previously kiss. Afterwards the rest shall offer who choose so to do. The professed shall then prostrate herself on the carpet or the ground, until after the reception of the Body and Blood of Christ by the Bishop fully performed. Then the professed shall be raised up, and the Bishop coming from the altar with the Body of Christ on the paten shall communicate her, devoutly kneeling on the step of the higher altar, in these words :—"The Body of our Lord Jesu Christ preserve thy body and thy soul unto life everlasting. Amen." Then shall the Wine be given to her. After which the Bishop shall give her the benediction in these words :—"Blessed be the Name of the Lord. From this

time forth for evermore. Our help is in the Name of the Lord. Who hath made heaven and earth. Almighty God bless thee, the Father +, and the Son +, and the Holy Ghost +. Amen." The Sister then rose, and kissed the Bishop's hand, and was led into the Choir and kissed all her Sisters. She was afterwards to continue in silence, according to the directions previously annexed to the Order of the Consecration of a Virgin.*

2. The Injunctions consequent upon several Visitations will be found in various parts of the volume. As one of the most curious and valuable of this class of documents now extant, I feel much pleasure in adding to these notices an exact transcript, so far as the press can represent its peculiarities, from the original among the Cottonian Rolls, of a series of "Constitutions" made by Reynold Kentwode, Dean of S. Paul's, 1422—1441, their Patron, for the Nuns of S. Helen's, Bishopsgate, dated the 21st of June, 1439. I hardly need direct the reader's attention to the various illustrations which they offer of the usages of Conventual life.

"Reynold Kentwode Dean and Chapeter' of the churche of Poules to the Religious Womeñ Prioresse and Couent of the Priory of Seynt Eleyns of owre Patronage and Jurysdiccyoñ inmediat and euery Nunne of the sayde Pryory gretyng in god witħ desyre of Relygious obſuaunce

* MS. Harl, 561. ff. 107—114 b.

and deuocyon̄ ffor as moche as in owre Visitacyon̄ ordinarye in ȝowr' Priorye boothe in the hedde and in the membris late actualy excersyd we have foundeñ many defautes and excesses the wiche nedyth̄ notory correccyon̄ and reformacyon̄ We wyllyng vertu to be cherysshed and holy Relygion̄ for to be kepte as in the rulee of ȝowre ordyrre We ordeyn̄ and make certeyn̄ ordenauns and Jniunccyons̄ weche we sende ȝow Jwrete and seelyd vndir owr' comonne seele for to be kepte in form as thei ben articled and wretyn̄ vn to ȝow

ffirste we ordeyne and Jnioyne ȝow that devyne ſuyce be don̄ by ȝow duly nyth̄ and day and silence duly kepte in due Tyme and Place aftir' the obſuaunce of ȝowr' religion̄

Also we ordeyne an Jnioyne ȝow Prioresse and Couent and eche of ȝow synglerly that ȝe make due and hole confession̄ to the coffesso^r assigned be vs

Also we Jnioyne ȝow Pryoresse and Couent that ȝe ordeyne conuenyent place of firmarye in the wiche ȝowre seeke sustres may be honestly kepte and relevyd with̄ the costes and expenses of ȝowre house acustomed in the relygion duryng the tyme of heere sekenesse

Also we Jnioyne ȝow Prioresse that ȝe kepe ȝowr' Dorto^r and ly ther' Jnne by nyth̄ aftyr obſuaunce of ȝowre religion̄ with̄ owt that the case be suche that þ^e lawe and the obſuaunce of ȝowre religion̄ suffreth̄ ȝow to do the contrarye

Also we ordeyne and Jnione ȝow Prioresse and Couent that noo seculer' be lokkyd with̄ Jnne the boundes of the cloyster' ne no seculer' psones come with̄ Jnne aftyr the belle of complyn̄ except wymment seruauntes and mayde childeryn̄ lerners Also admitte noone soio^rnauntes wymment with̄ owte lycense of vs

Also we ordeyne and Jnioyne ȝow Prioresse and Couent that ȝe ne noone of ȝowre sustres vse nor haunte any place with Jnne the Priory thorowgh the wich euel suspeccyon or sclaunder' myth aryse wech places for certeyn causes that move vs we wryte not here Jnne in owr' p̄sent Jniūccyon but wole notyfie to ȝow Prioresse nor have no lokyng nor spectacles owte warde thorght þ^e wiche ȝe myth falle in wordly dilectacyon

Also We ordeyne and Jnioyne ȝow Prioresse and Couent that somme sadde woman and discrete of the seyde Religion honest wele named be assigned to the shittyng of the Cloysters dorys and kepyng of the keyeys that non psone have entre ne issu in to the place aftyr complyn belle nethir in noo other tyme be the wiche the place may be disclaunderid in tyme comyng

Also We ordeyn and Jnioyne ȝow Prioresse and Couent that noo seculer' wymmen slepe be nyth with Jnne the Dorto^r with oute speciall graunte had in the Chapet̄ house among ȝow alle

Also We ordeyne and Jnioyne ȝow that noone of ȝow speke ne comon with no seculer' psone ne sende ne reseyve let̄es myssyves or ȝeftes of any seculer' psone with oute lycence of the Prioresse and that there be an other' of ȝowr' sustres p̄sent assigned be the Prioresse to here and recorde the honeste of bothe ptyes in suche cōmynicacion And suche letters or ȝeftes sent or reseyvyd may turne in to honeste and wurchepe and none in to velanye ne disclaunderid of ȝowre honeste and religion

Also We ordeyne and Jnione ȝow Prioresse and Couent that non of ȝowre susters be admitted to noon office butt they that be of gode name & fame

Also we ordeyne and Jnioyne ȝow that ȝe ordeyne and chese on of ȝowre susters honest abille and Cunnyng of

discrecyoñ the whicħ can may and schaⁿ have þ^e charge of techyng and informacyoñ of ȝowre susters that ben vnkunnyng for to teche hem here ꝑuice and the rule of here religioñ

Also for as moche that diuꝛce fees ꝑpetueⁿ corrodies and lyuers have be grauntyd be for this tyme to diuerce officers of ȝowre house and other' ꝑsones whecħ have hurt the house and be cause of delapidacyoñ of the godys of ȝowre seyde house we ordeyne and Jnioyne ȝow that ȝe reseyve noon officer' to noo ꝑ'petueⁿ ffee of office ne graunte noo annuete corody ne lyuery witħ out speciaⁿ assent of vs

Also we Jnioyne ȝow that aⁿ daunsyng and reuelyng be vtterely for borne among ȝow except Cristmasse and other honest tymys of recreacyoñ among ȝowre selfe vsid in absence of seculers in aⁿ wyse

Also we Jnioyne ȝow P^oresse that þere may be a doore at þ^e Nonnes quere that noo straungers may loke on them nor they on þ^e straungers wanne þei beñ at diuyne service Also we ordene and Jnione ȝow Prioresse þ^t þ^ere be made a hacħ of conabyⁿ heytħ crestyd w^t pykys of herne to fore þ^e entre of ȝowr' kechyñ þ^t noo straunge pepiⁿ may entr' w^t certeyne Clekettes avysid be ȝow and be ȝowr' Stward to suche ꝑsonys as ȝow and hym thynk onest and conabyⁿ

Also we Jnioyne ȝow Prioresse that non Nonnes have noo keyes of þ^e posterne doore that gotħ owte of the cloyster' in to the churchȝerd but the Prioresse for þere is moche comyng in and owte vn lefuⁿ tymys

Also we ordeyne and Jnioyne that no Nonne have ne receyve noo Schuldryñ wytħ hem in to the howse forseyde but ȝyf that þ^e ꝑfite of þ^e comonys turne to þ^e vayle of þ^e same howse

Thes ordenauns and Jniunccyons and iche of them as thei be rehersid aboue We sende vnto ȝow Prioresse and Couent chardyng and cōmaundyng ȝow and iche of ȝow alle to kepe hem truly and holy in vertu of obedience and vp on peyn of contempte And that ȝe doo them be redde and declared iiij^{or} tymes of the ȝeere in ȝowre Chapet^{r} be fore ȝow that thei may be hadde in mynde and kepte vndir peyne of excōicacyoñ and other lawfull peynes to be ȝove in to the ꝑsone of ȝow Prioresse and in to singuler ꝑsones of the couent whech̄ we purpose to vse aȝens ȝow in case þ^{t} ȝe dissobeye vs Reservyng to vs and owre successo^{r}res powr' thes forsayde ordinnaunces and Jniūccyons to chaunge declare adde and diminue and with̄ hem despense as ofte as þ^{e} case requirith̄ and it is nedfull Jn to which̄ wittenesse we sette owre comoñ seele ȝovyñ in owre Chapit^{r} house the xxj day of the Monyth̄ of June the ȝere of owre lord Mill̄imo CCCC^{mo} xxxix^{no}. Et Anno r' r' henrici sexti post conq'm decimo septimo."*

3. An evidence—and it is impossible to imagine one more conclusive—of the confidence and affectionate respect with which these Establishments were held is presented by the fact that they were constantly employed as a notoriously safe asylum for women and children during the temporary absence from home of fathers or husbands either on private business or in the service of their country. Examples will be found in the histories both of Cannington and Mynchin Barrow. To the student, indeed, of our old literature such instances are familiar. To take

* Rot. Cott. v. 6.

one less known. In the ancient poem of "Adam Bel, Clym of the Cloughe, and Wyllyam of Cloudeslè," when the three outlaws left Englishe-wood on their journey to the King, to obtain his royal pardon, Alice, the wife of the latter, with her two younger children were committed during his absence to the safe keeping of a neighbouring Sisterhood :—

> "Cloudeslè sayd, We wyll to our kyng,
> To get us a charter of peace;
> Alce shal be at our sojournyng,
> In a nunry here besyde,
> My tow sonnes shall wyth her go,
> And ther they shall abyde." (ll. 433—438.)

The reader, who has thus been all but an eye-witness of the solemn Consecration of the Sisters of the House, has perused the good Rules for the maintenance of discipline, and has seen how both united in the formation of an Asylum which men of all conditions agreed to revere, may now pass the gate, and enter the Sacred Abode itself, and notice the effects of each of these causes in the varied details of the Memoirs which follow.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Fac-similes of portions of the Accounts of two Clerical Subsidies - - *to face title.*

Rings found at Mynchin Buckland - - *M. Buckland, page* 108

Fragments of Sepulchral Slabs at Mynchin Buckland - - - *Ib. page* 114

Sepulchral Slab at Mynchin Buckland - - - *Ib. page* 115

Common Seal of Mynchin Buckland - - - *Ib. page* 124

Inscribed Stone at Combe Flory - - - *Cannington, page* 11

"Nonaynes de Cannyntune" - *Ib. page* 65

ERRATA.

In Mynchin Buckland.

Page 42, *line* 21, *for* 1320-1 *read* 1321-2 *P.* 49, *l.* 28, *for* 6th Feb. 1334-5 *read* 11th Aug. 1335 *P.* 50, *l.* 4, *for* 3rd Feb. 1336-7 *read* 11th Aug. 1337 *P.* 64, *l.* 25, *for* 31st Jan. 1364-5, *read* 8th Aug. 1365 *P.* 68, *l.* 10, *for* Hankerugge *read* Haukerugge *l.* 22, *for* Hernyngston *read* Heryngston *P.* 69, *l.* 27, *for* Hernyngston *read* Heryngston *P.* 99, *l.* 29, *for* 1534 *read* 1535 *P.* 128, *l.* 20, *for* orginal *read* original *P.* 186, *l.* 28, *for* Cart. *read* Cert.

In Cannington.

P. 14, *note* § *for* 684 *read* 634 *P.* 20, *l.* 25, *and elsewhere*, *for* Pencery *read* Pencriche *P.* 27, *n.* § *for* H. *read* Ib. *P.* 29, *l.* 14, *for* have *read* has *P.* 35, *l.* 29, *for* to answer *read* answer to *P.* 36, *ll.* 31, 32, *for* Shelf *and* Dusty *read* Sherper *and* Ansty *P.* 39, *l.* 12, *for* † *read* ‡ *P.* 41, *l.* 22, *for* out *read* in respect *P.* 53, *l.* 12, *for* 3rd *read* 23rd *P.* 56, *l.* 11, *for* * *read* ‡ *P.* 59, *l* 15, *for* Priest *read* Sub-deacon *P.* 79, *l.* 8, *for* 38 *read* 28 *P.* 83, *l.* 2, *for* Gardyn *read* Gardyner *l.* 8, *for* iij^{s} *read* iiij^{s} *l.* 18, *for* xxiij^{s} *read* xxxiij^{s} *P.* 84, *l.* 16, *for* Staunton *read* Stanton *P.* 85, *l.* 20, *for* Scholand *read* Holand *P.* 94, *l.* 11, *for* ‡ *read* † *n.* ‡, *for* 11 (22) *read* 5 (20) *P.* 104, *l.* 22, *for* p'hendinaco'e *read* p'hendinac'one *P.* 106, *l.* 8, *for* Purceo *read* Purceoq' *ll.* 12, 13, 17, *for* sojourner *read* souiourner *l.* 16, *for* reteniez *read* resteniez *l.* 17, *for* susdeite *read* susdite *P.* 107, *l.* 28, *for* impetuu' *read* imp'petuu' *P.* 108, *l.* 5, *for* Sherf' *read* Sherp' *P.* 116, *l.* 5, *for* Capella *read* Capello *P.* 119, *l.* 37, *for* solidos' *and* denarios' *read* solidos *and* denarios

In Mynchin Barrow.

P. 9, *l.* 19, *after* Nuns *insert* nor one Nun towards another, *P.* 10, *l.* 13, *for* giver of all good things *read* rewarder of all good men *l.* 24, *for* Pencery *read* Pencriche *P.* 16, *l.* 28, *for* Santa *read* Sancta *P.* 38, *l.* 19, *for* 3rd *read* 23rd *P.* 57, *l.* 29, *for* Haule *read* Henle *P.* 60, *l.* 9, *for* xviij^{s} *read* xiiij^{s} *Pp.* 61, 62, *transpose notes* * *P.* 71, *l.* 13, *for* cartilages *read* curtilages

In White Hall.

P. 14, *l.* 7, *for* Clapton *read* Clopton *P.* 24, *l.* 3, *for* Herminull *read* Herumvill *P.* 26, *l.* 24, *for* Harminulle *read* Harumville *P.* 61, *n.* * *for* 701 *read* 605 *P.* 75, *l.* 13, *for* Clapton *read* Clopton *P.* 78, *l.* 25, *for* Herminull *read* Herumuill *P.* 79, *l.* 35, *for* Harminulle *read* Harumuille *P.* 86, *l.* 32, *for* 701 *read* 605

Mynchin Buckland Priory and Preceptory.

AMONG the many charming roads by which a traveller in the west may reach on all sides the fair town of Taunton, he will find none more beautiful than that which runs from Borough Bridge to the village of Durston, and then, with West Monkton at a short distance on the right and Creech S. Michael on the left, leads him through our favourite Bathpool, and by its picturesque mills, either along the ancient highway, commonly called Old Bathpool Lane, under Creechbury Hill, or through the meadows by the Tone and the Priory Fields, to the busy streets and the consequent termination of his journey. He will not have advanced far on the route that I have here laid down, when the lovely vale of Taunton Dean, with its churches and steeples, its mansions and parks, its corn-fields and groves, and its noble framework of Neroche and Blackdown, above the sunny shoulders of Stoke and Orchard, of Pickeridge and Staple, opens wide before him, and he only relinquishes the grander glories of the more distant prospect for the shady lanes, the tall trees, the winding river, and the snugly sheltered homesteads, of which his descent

into the lowlands soon gratifies him with the closer view. After passing the hamlet of West Ling, and when he is within half a mile from Durston, he may observe in a meadow on his right hand some curious inequalities of the surface, contracting and expanding with that certain definiteness and regularity of outline which assures him of the presence of design on the part of the constructors, though it is more than likely that he may be unable to offer an explanation of the intention which not the less certainly actuated them in their labours. On his left, at the distance of a field from the road, is a modern mansion, and adjoining to it are some agricultural buildings and court and garden walls of an earlier age. These are the only indications which the place now presents of occupation more ancient than his own, save the roads and hedgerows which may have been there for centuries.

Quiet, and still, and lonely is the present aspect of the spot. And yet it was once a scene both of contemplative privacy and of active industry, and they who owned and occupied it were members of a Community which had a long and noble history, and played a distinguished part in the ages of its existence. It was the site of the Priory and Preceptory of Buckland, Mynchin Buckland, or Buckland Sororum, a House of Sisters, as the name implies, and a Commandry of the Order of S. John of Jerusalem,—in both departments the local centre of an influence sensibly and deeply and widely felt. A few crumbling fragments, now recognised with difficulty, once formed the boundary between them and the surrounding world. And the green undulations which attracted our traveller's notice were long centuries ago the demesne Ponds which supplied with much of their ordinary diet the Brethren and Sisters of the two establishments.

It is to this double Community that I am about to direct the attention of my reader. And in presenting him with a history of Buckland, I may suggest that I am introducing him to an entirely new and different aspect of Monastic Life and Conventual Usage from those with which I have elsewhere attempted to make him familiar. The system of the Hospital itself was unlike all others save one, as I shall presently endeavour to show. And, in addition to this, it is specially to be noted that we have here a feature which even in that Order was not elsewhere to be seen in England. Mynchin Buckland was both a Priory and a Preceptory. The latter was a normal example of a Hospitalars' Commandry; the former was the sole instance in the kingdom of its peculiar class. It was a Community of Women, and the only one that the Order possessed. As such, its history presents us not only with a subject of local interest of the most agreeable kind, but with an unique chapter in monastic annals at large. It is at once a new scene to the student of olden days, and one of which no county but Somersetshire can furnish him with an example.

Before I enter into the narrative of the vicissitudes of this attractive place, it will be necessary to give my reader a brief account of the Order to which it belonged. We should otherwise be likely to meet with obscurities in the story which a few words of previous explanation would easily avail to remove.

The Order of Knights Hospitalars began and took its name from a Hospital founded at Jerusalem, and had for its chief objects the defence of the pilgrims on their road thither, and the care and maintenance of them during their sojourn. It included among its members both men and women; and, of the duties just enumerated, the latter was

necessarily as well as specially the office of the Sisters, as the former was of the Brethren. The Knights, or officers of the highest rank, were called in the first instance Knights of S. John of Jerusalem; and afterwards, from the successive places of their residence, Knights of Rhodes, and Knights of Malta. The Hospital was founded in the Holy City about the year 1092, and was dedicated to S. John the Baptist. Eight years afterwards the Order was introduced into England, and the Brethren's first House was built for them at Clerkenwell in the year 1100. They soon acquired considerable wealth, which was much increased in the earlier part of the fourteenth century by the cession to them of the estates of the suppressed Order of the Knights Templars.

The general history of the Hospitalars does not form a portion of my subject, and is also, I presume, more or less known to the greater part of my readers. It is, rather, to the peculiarities of their government that I desire to draw attention.

The most important of these consisted in the fact that the Houses, which were erected upon most of their estates, were not the abodes of independent Communities, but the officers in charge were in all cases simply stewards and officials of the Prior of the Hospital in England, who in his turn had to account to the Master and Head of the Order. Each of these Establishments, generally consisting of but few members, of whom the majority were usually laymen, with one or more chaplains for the celebration of Divine Offices, was under the government of a Commander or Preceptor, and was hence styled a Commandry or Preceptory. The brethren were allowed a maintenance from the produce of the estates committed to their superintendence, and accounted for the overplus to the Prior at Clerkenwell.

Lands, therefore, could only be given to the Order through the Prior, and not to any single Commandry, that being deemed in law incapable of receiving them, as the officers were but "obedientiarii," officials, deputed by the Prior as his representatives and receivers. Their system was, accordingly, entirely different from those of other Orders, that of the Temple excepted. Instead of each being independent, and having the care of its individual interest, all were so many subject brotherhoods, each little establishment a representive of the great Priory in London, acknowledging one general head, and contributing its portion to the general treasury.*

This will be sufficient to give the reader a notion of the early history of the Order and its mode of government. We will now proceed to our immediate subject. I would, however, premise that much misconception has arisen from the identity of its name with that of the numerous other localities possessed of a similar cognomen. This has, unhappily, tended to derange and falsify, and so to render worse than useless, even the few and meagre notices of it which have hitherto been committed to the press. There is hardly one of my predecessors who has not mistaken it more or less for the Abbey of Buckland in the County of Devon. One has confused it with Buckland S. Mary in Somersetshire. And, strangest of all, even the learned Sir Henry Chauncy, in his History of Hertfordshire, has described an imaginary Buckland Monastery in that county, and connected with it some of the earlier facts in the history of our House.† It has not been

* See the Author's History of Moor Hall, a "camera" of the same Order, reprinted from the Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, 8vo. London, 1866.

† Vol. I. pp. 228—231, Ed. 1826.

hitherto, however, nor is it now, my desire to dwell upon other men's omissions or mistakes. I gladly turn to a more congenial task.

It was about the year 1166, that William de Erlegh, lord of the manor of Durston, founded the House for a community of Augustine Canons. His father, John de Erlegh, who died in the previous year, was possessed of sundry manors in the county of Somerset, one of which still bears his name in Somerton Erle, and is mentioned as paying five marcs for scutage in 1161. "For the health of the souls of King Henry and of Alienor the Queen, and of King Henry their son, and of their other sons and daughters, and for the benefit of the souls of himself and of his wife, William de Erlegh gave," as Brother John Stillingflete informs us, "all the land of Buklande, and the Church of Perretone (Petherton), with other churches and their lands in divers places, as appears by a charter thereupon made, for the planting and ordaining, by the hand of Thomas, the Archdeacon, (Archbishop in the other MS.) uncle of the said William de Erlegh, of Religion at Bukland ; and that the same Canons, thus planted and ordained in the same place, should possess the aforesaid lands and churches to their own proper uses in pure and perpetual alms."*

* MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23. MS. in Off. Armor. L. 17, fol. 153. Appendix, No. I.

As will be observed by the references, I am acquainted with two MSS. of this work of Brother John Stillingflete. Both are transcripts later by upwards of a century and a half than the lifetime of the chronicler. The former has been much injured by the fire of 1731, and exists but in fragments: the latter is considerably more ample in details, although both of them were evidently copied from a common original; but its text is most corrupt, and the writer was manifestly ignorant of the language of the production which he endeavoured to perpetuate.

According to the same chronicler, who wrote an account of the Order in 1434, for a perpetual memorial and commemoration of the various benefactors and their donations, it appears that together with the Church of Peretone (Petherton), and all its dependent chapels and their appurtenances, the same William de Erlegh, lord of Dristone,* (Durston) gave, for the building of the House of Bukland, the Church of Chedsey (Chedzoy), with all the right which the brethren of the Hospital had or ought to have in the Church of Poulet, with the Chapel of Huntworth, the Chapel of Neweton Comitis, the Chapel of Thurlakestone, the Chapel of Sirdeston, and the Chapel of Neweton Regis, also the Church of Bekyntone, with all its appurtenances, the Church of Kynmersdon, and the Church of Sirston, with, it is added, many other lands and benefactions.†

It appears that Walter was the first and possibly the only Prior of the House. The chronicler just quoted is silent on the fact, and indeed the whole account is not a little obscure. But, on turning to other MS. sources for information, I have found a Walter Prior of Bokeland, or Bokland, as a witness in two documents belonging to this period. One of these sets forth that Alan de Ffurvell, with the consent of Geoffrey his heir, gave to the Church of S. Andrew in Wells, for the health of his soul, and of

* I request the reader, who may be struck with the frequent variations in the orthography of proper names, to bear in mind that, throughout this and other Histories of Religious Houses, I invariably give them as they appear in the document which supplies the information then and there offered. Apart from other and good reasons for closely adhering to the original authority, the orthography of proper names is generally a key to the contemporary pronunciation of them, and not unfrequently to their origin and correct derivation.

† MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX. fol. 23. MS. in Off. Armor. L. 17, fol. 153b. Appendix, No. II.

the souls of his father and mother and all his ancestors, the Church of Cudeworth with the Chapel of Cnolle, and all other appurtenances of the same, in pure and perpetual alms, free and quit of all temporal service and secular exaction, to be a perpetual prebend of the church of Wells.* To this grant Walter, Prior of Bokelande, William, parson of Cerd (Chard), Jocelin, chaplain, John de Cumbe, Simon Peverell, Walter de Dunstavill, clerk, Alard, chamberlain, and many others, occur as witnesses. The other is a confirmation by Maud de Chandos of a donation of Silvanus to the Church of S. Mary of Stowey, of two acres of land, and of a later donation to the same Church of an acre and a half in Betescumbe; and also of a donation of Roger de Paris to the same Church, of an acre of land in Bucli. Witnesses: Walter, Prior of Boclande, Master Richard de Gilleford, Archdeacon (of Wells, from about 1170 to 1185), Master (Ralph) de Lechlade, Jocelin and Walter, chaplains of the Lord Bishop, and very many others.† Probably, as he is not mentioned in connection with the subsequent troubles, he died before the arrival of the evil days which made his House notorious. Indeed it is not improbable that those troubles were connected with the election of his successor.

Some years after its foundation, these Canons were removed from their monastery. The circumstances are nowhere recorded with minuteness, but it appears, from the narrative of the chronicler already referred to, and whose language I shall as near as possible adopt in my account of the transaction, that a violent altercation had unhappily arisen which resulted in the death of their

* Reg. Well. I. fol. 38b. n. cxxxv. Lib. Alb. Well. fol. 401b. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6968, p. 40.

† Lib. Alb. Well. fol. 250. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6968, Cart. p. 21.

steward, who was a relative of the pious founder. A sentence of outlawry was accordingly passed upon them, their House was declared to be forfeited, and their lands and churches were made over by the then sovereign, King Henry the Second, with the concurrence of Ralph Archbishop of Canterbury, of Reginald Bishop of Bath, and of many of the chief men of England both clerical and lay, to Garner of Naples, Prior of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem in England.* Among the earliest records of this transfer, for the original form of the document has not to my knowledge been preserved, is a charter of "inspeximus" granted by K. John, recounting at large the possessions of the Hospitalars, including an express mention of the arrangement to be noticed immediately, and ending with the usual confirmation of all previous donations. This charter was "dated, by the hand of H[ubert]. Archbishop of Canterbury, our Chancellor, at Rouen, the 30th day of August," the 1st year of King John, A.D. 1199.†

As I have just hinted, it was not a simple transfer, but a very important stipulation was introduced into the grant, and directed to be fully and faithfully observed. It appears that there were a few Sisters belonging to the Order, who resided at several of the Commandries, as at Hamton near Kyngeston, Kerebrooke, Swynfeld, and other places. It was now arranged and agreed to that these ladies should be removed from their previous places of residence, and should be placed in one common and conventual home at Bukland, and that the Order should have no Sisterhood belonging to it in England save and except

* MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., fol. 23. MS. in Coll. Arm. L. 17, fol. 155. Appendix, No. III.

† Rot. Cart. 1 John, p. 1. m. 17.

in that House alone. This occurred about the year 1180, or sometime about fifteen years after the original foundation.

The displaced Canons were removed by Garner, with the King's consent, to certain monasteries, selected probably for their high character and the sound state of their internal discipline. Three of them were, on their own petition, admitted into the House of the Hospital at Clerkenwell, and took the habit of the Order ; two into the Priory of Tanton ; one into the Priory of Berlitz, and one into that of S. Bartholomew, of Smithfield. The same, also on their own petition, were by the aforesaid Reginald, Bishop of Bath, caused to be received into the Religion, or Regular Community, of the Canons. These preliminary arrangements being satisfactorily concluded, the main design was forthwith carried out. The Sisters hitherto residing, as already stated, in divers of the preceptories, were, with the consent of the King and of all concerned, brought together by Garner and placed at what was henceforth called Mynchin or Nuns' Bukland. From the names which have been preserved, they appear to have been at least nine in number :—Sister Milsant, previously residing at Standon, in Hertfordshire; Sister Johanna, at Hamton, in Middlesex; Sister Basilia, at Kerebrooke, in Norfolk ; Sister Amabilia and Sister Amicia de Malketon, at Shenegey, in Cambridgeshire ; Sister Christina de Hoggeshawe, at Hoggeshawe, in Buckinghamshire ; Sister Petronilla, at Gosford, in Oxfordshire ; and Sister Agnes, at Clanefelde, also in Oxfordshire. They were located at Buckland, that, as it was solemnly added, they and their successors might serve God in that place for ever.* Such was the small beginning, and such the first members, of this afterwards famous Sisterhood.

* MS. in Coll. Arm., L. 17, fol. 153. Appendix, No. IV.

From a very interesting list of the Priors of the Hospital in England, commencing with Garnar and ending with Leonard de Tybertis, contained in the Cottonian MS., Nero, E. VI., and specially intended, as it would appear, to illustrate the history of Buckland, we learn that the first Prioress was named Fina. This lady, who died about the year 1240, governed the House for the long space of sixty years, and outlived from the date of her appointment seven successive Heads of the Order.* She was greatly revered, and, as we shall notice subsequently, was specially remembered in the prayers of the Sisterhood for a considerable period after her decease.

Buckland, however, was not only a House of Religious Women, but also a Preceptory of the Order of the Hospital. The latter establishment was under the government of an officer deputed, in the manner already described, by the Prior at Clerkenwell. I believe I have discovered the first of these officials in the person of Hugh, who occurs among the witnesses to a grant, which I found among the archives of the Dean and Chapter of Wells, of the Church of S. Decuman, near Watchet, to the members of that Chapter, by Simon, son of Simon Brito. He gives, for the health of his soul, and of his father and mother, and of all his ancestors and successors, to God and S. Andrew, the Apostle, of Wells, and to Rainald, Bishop of Bath, and all his successors, the Church of S. Decuman, to be a perpetual prebend of the Church of Wells, free and quit of all secular service and exaction. Witnesses: Master A[lexander]. dean of Wells; Master Robert de Geldeford, archdeacon; Jocelin, chaplain; Master Roger de Doveliz; William de Cerd, chaplain; Hugh de Wells, clerk; Roger de Godestowe, Henry de Traci, Hamelin de Columbars,

* MS. Cott. Nero, E. VI. f. 467b. Appendix, No. V.

Richard Fitz Berne, Stephen de Waletune, Knts.; Sir Hugh, Master of the Brethren of the Hospital of Bokelonde; William and Jordan, Chaplains and Brethren of the Hospital of Bokelande; William Brito, brother of the aforesaid Simon; Adam de Rammesbery; Helias Fitz Richard; Daniel and Floridus, Brethren; Ralph Fitz Robert; Serlo, and many others.* From a comparison of these witnesses, the date of the charter is to be referred to, or about, the year 1185.

The maintenance of the Sisters was provided for by a series of benefactors. First on the list is Matilda Countess of Clare, wife of William Earl of Clare, and mother of Richard Earl of Clare, who gave to the Hospital the advowson of the Church of S. Peter of Kerebrooke, and the Preceptory of that name. She gave also to the Sisters of the House of Bukland a pension of xiij^{s} iiij^{d}, to be paid annually by the Preceptor of Kerebrooke for the time being, and many other benefactions. The gift is recorded to have been made at Westminster, in the fifth year of King Richard I., 1192, in the time of Alan, Prior of the Hospital in England, and subsequently Bishop of Bangor.† That of the Preceptory of Kerebrooke to the Hospital, however, was made at a date prior to this of the pension to the Sisters, as we have already seen that the Order was in possession of it at least as early as the year 1180.

Gilbert de Veer, Prior of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem, gave the Sisters an annual pension of one hundred shillings, issuing from the manor of Reynham.‡ He died on the 13th of August, 1198 (?).

* Lib. Alb. Well. ff. 368b, 369. "Dean Cosyn's MS." ff. 340b, 341. Appendix, No. VI.

† MS. in Coll. Arm. L. 17. fol. 148b. Appendix, No. VII.

‡ MS. Cott. Nero. E. VI. f. 467b. The original is included in Appendix, No. V.

Hugh Wallis, Archdeacon of Wells, and afterwards Bishop of Lincoln, by his will, dated the feast of S. Brice, the 13th of November, 1211, left the sum of twenty marcs "ad fabricam ecclesiæ de Bokland."* This structure, it appears, was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and S. Nicholas.†

Hugh de Alneto, or D'Auney, Prior of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem, gave, with the consent of the Chapter, permission to the Lady Loretta, Countess of Leycester, to find a Chaplain to celebrate daily the mass of the Virgin in the Church of the Sisters, in return for certain lands and rents which the Countess gave to the Hospital, to be converted to the proper uses of the Sisters aforesaid of Bukland, so that the aforesaid Chaplain should be deputed to no other service save the proper ministry of the glorious Virgin in the Church aforesaid.‡ We possess the charter of the Countess of Leicester contained in one of "inspeximus" and confirmation granted shortly after by Henry III., and dated, by the hand of R[alph]. Bishop of Cycestre, at Westminster, the 16th of July, in the 11th year of his reign, 1227. The original will be found in the Appendix, but, as the document is of considerable interest, both from its subject matter and from the names of the places which it furnishes, it may be well to give it in a literal translation. It is as follows :—

"Be it known to all the faithful of Christ, as well present as future, who shall see or hear this writing, that I, Loretta, Countess of Leycestre, have given and granted to God, and Blessed Mary, and S. John Baptist, and the blessed Poor of the House of the Hospital of Jerusalem, to the

* MS. Harl. 6968, pp. 19—21.
† Rot. Chart. 1 Joh. p. 1. m. 17.
‡ MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX. f. 23. MS. in Coll. Arm. L. 17. f. 153b. Appendix, No. VIII.

sustenance of the Sisters of Boclaund serving God, and to the finding of a certain Chaplain, a brother, in the same House, who daily and for ever may celebrate mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the greater Church at Bokland, at the altar of the Blessed Virgin, for the health of my soul and of Lord Robert my husband, some time Earl of Leicestre, and for the health of the souls of my father and mother, and of all my ancestors and successors, all my land of Notestone, and all my land of Ynesford, this side the water and that side the water, and sixty-four acres of my demesne above Ruwedone, and all my land of Ridescote, and of Hele, and of Chorlecote, and of Tunecote, and of Boteburne, and all the land which Philip at Way holds, with the tenants of the aforesaid lands. And, moreover, a hundred acres of my demesne in Bremmesmore, and my wood which is called Ancrwde, and one ferling at Roitheye, with all their appurtenances in the manor of Toustoke, with the pastures and all other things to the aforesaid lands appertaining. And, moreover, all manner of common between my tenements wheresoever. To be had and possessed freely and quietly in perpetual and pure alms, as any alms may be freely and quietly given. And that this my gift may in future times obtain the strength of perpetual firmness, I have held it right to strengthen it by the defence of the present writing with the apposition of my seal. These are witnesses: Master Lambert, Sub-dean of Wells(?); Sir Philip de Albene; Sir Roger de la Cuche; Adam, son of Hondebrand; Master Vmphrey, Canon of Cycestre; Master Reginald de Merestone; William, Chaplain of Bukingeham; Walter, clerk of Langeham; Thomas, clerk of Glouecestre; Nicholas de Wyleya, and others."*

* Cart. 11 Hen. III., p. 2, m. 6. Appendix, No. IX.

Other early gifts, of which the exact dates have not been preserved, are the following :—

Ralph, the son of William de Briwere, gave to the Sisters the Church of Toland, with its appurtenances.

Alan, son of Antony Russell, gave them the Church of Doningtone, in the diocese of Lincoln.

Warin de Aula gave them Bodescombe.

Ascuid Musard gave them Chiltcombe, Wysangre, and Bochelcote.

And Robert Arundale gave them Halse, with its appur tenances.* Possibly this gift is the same as that afterwards mentioned, and the subject of legal investigation in the years 1374 and 1400. The name, however, of the donor is there given as Roger Arundell.

By a charter without date, Muriel de Buhun gave them for their sustenance 40 solidatæ of land in Sireburn and Plumslegh (Sherborne and Primesley), in the county of Dorset, which she held of the bailiff Roger, son of Renfred, in pure and perpetual alms. Witnesses: John de Erle, Ralph de Aure, &c.†

By another charter, without date, Ralph de Bruer, at the petition of his wife, Muriel de Buhun, confirmed the aforesaid gift.‡

The Prioress of Buckland held also one fee in Primesleigh, which was Robert de London's, of the Bishop of Salisbury ; and, with William Waddam, half a fee, which was Robert de London's, of the same Bishop in chief.§

By a charter dated, witness the King, at Neubiry, the 3rd of August, 1228, King Henry III. granted the Sisters

* MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX. f. 23. MS. in Off. Armor. L. 17. f. 153b. Appendix, No. X.

† MS. Harl. 4120, fol. 5. ‡ Ib.

§ Hutchins's Dorsetshire, iv. 146.

of the Hospital at Bocland permission to take in his park of Neuton one cartload of dead wood for their fuel every week in the year. And it was considerately added, that, because it was more convenient to remove the aforesaid firewood in summer than in winter, the King permitted them to take the stated number of cartloads in the interval from Easter to the feast of S. Peter ad vincula, the 1st of August, instead of during the whole year. A mandate was at the same time directed to Richard de Wrotham, to allow them to remove the fuel, in agreement with the terms of the King's grant.*

It would appear that this privilege was not only one of considerable value, as it would necessarily be, but also, as we shall see on various subsequent occasions, one that was repeatedly subject to infringement, for we find a long series of confirmations of this and similar grants. In some instances, however, it was doubtless the change of the officer to whom the park was intrusted which necessitated the issue of a new order. On the 3rd of April, 1229, the King signified from Merleberg (Marlborough) to Hugh de Nevill his royal pleasure that the Sisters should have weekly from his park of Neuton one cartload of the dead wood of that park for their fuel. A similar permission was added to remove the whole of their yearly gathering between the feast of Easter and that of S. Peter ad vincula, instead of employing the winter in so inconvenient a work.† And a similar order was addressed to Richard de Wrotham, dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 15th of May, 1229.‡

Immediately subsequent to this grant, a very interesting addition was made to the revenues of the Sisters, and again

* Pat. 12 Henry III., m. 2. Appendix, No. XI.
† Claus. 13 Hen. III., m. 12.
‡ Claus. 13 Hen. III., m. 10.

it was by their royal benefactor. The letters were addressed to the King's treasurer and chamberlains. "Know ye," he says, "that we have given, and granted, and by our charter have confirmed to the Prioress of Bocland and the Sisters there serving God, of the Order of the Hospital of Jerusalem, to maintain three maidens for ever in the said Priory, a delivery of two pence and one half-penny, which Roger, Chaplain of the Bishop of Lincoln, used to receive daily by the hand of the Sheriff of Hereford our almoner; and a delivery of two pence, which Margary, the nurse of Isabella our sister, used to receive daily by the hand of the same Sheriff. To be held of us and of our heirs by them and their successors in free, pure, and perpetual alms; and to be received for ever at our exchequer; that is to say, one moiety at Michaelmas, and the other at Easter. And so we command you that ye have these deliveries made unto them as aforesaid. Witness the King, at Faversham, the 20th of September," 1229.* The sheriffs of Hereford continued to make this annual payment, as may be seen in their accounts entered on the great Rolls of the Pipe, during the reigns of successive sovereigns, with some few omissions of which mention will be made in their chronological place.

The grant was followed eight days afterwards by another in favour of the Sisters, increasing the gift of one to that of three weekly cartloads of wood for their fire. It was to be taken every week "de spinis, alno, et arabili," in the park of Perton, and a similar concession was added as to time with that previously stated. The witnesses to this instrument were Hubert de Burg, Earl of Kent, Justiciar of England; Henry, Earl of Hereford; Stephen de Sed-

* Pat. 13 Hen. III., m. 4.

grave, Ralph de Trublevill, Eustace de Greinvill, John, son of Philip; Walerand Teuton, and others. It was dated, by the hand of the Venerable Father Ralph, Bishop of Chichester, Chancellor, at Westminster, the 28th of September, 13th Henry III., 1229. The instrument itself is not to be found on the Patent Roll of that year, but is included in a charter of "inspeximus" and confirmation of the 11th year of Richard II., which will be noticed in its proper place.

On the same day a missive was addressed, requiring compliance with the grant, witness the King, at Westminster, to Richard de Wrotham ;* and a similar one, two days afterwards, to John de Monem, dated, witness the King, at London, the 30th of September, 1229.†

We shall find subsequently that the Church of Elworthy was appropriated to the Order of the Hospital. It was the benefaction of William Malet, for at Westminster, in the quinzaine after Trinity Sunday, 17 Henry III., 1233, a final concord was made between Robert de Dina, Prior of the Hospital in England, and William Malet, touching the advowson of the Church of Hellewyth, in which the said William renounced all claim, on the part of himself and his heirs, in favour of the said Prior and his successors for ever, to the aforesaid Church. The Prior in return for this pious act granted to the donor and his heirs a perpetual interest in all the good deeds and prayers of his House from that time forward.‡

Letters patent of protection were granted to the Brethren and Sisters of Boclaund, witness the King, at Canterbury, the 6th of February, 1235.§

* Claus. 13 Hen. III., m. 4. † Claus. 13 Hen. III., m. 3.
‡ Ped. Fin. Somers. 2—20 Hen. III., n. 157.
§ Pat. 19 Hen. III., m. 14.

At the Assizes held at Yevelcestre in the quinzaine of S. Hilary, 27 Henry III., 1243, before Roger de Thurkileby and his fellows, the Prioress of Bocland gave half a marc for licence of passing a fine with the Prioress of Kington, for money owed through her pledge Robert de Shorham, by which she acknowledged herself to owe seventeen shillings of annual rent to the said Prioress, and agreed to pay one half at Michaelmas and the other at Easter.*

At Westminster, on the 29th of October, 28 Henry III., 1243, a final concord was made between Terricus de Nussa, Prior of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem in England, and John Randulf, touching one messuage and twelve acres of land with appurtenances in Northpereton, whereby the said John and his heirs were to hold the property of the Prior and his successors, on payment of five shillings sterling per annum, at the four terms of the year.†

Terricus de Nussa, the Prior just referred to, gave the Sisters and their successors, by advice of the general Chapter of his brethren, an annual allowance of thirty-eight marcs, twelve shillings, and eight pence sterling, which they were to receive for ever from the Preceptor of Bukland for the time being, at two terms of the year; namely, at the feast of Easter, nineteen marcs, six shillings, and four pence, and a similar sum at the feast of S. Michael. And it was further agreed to that the Preceptor should be allowed this amount in his responsion or annual return to the Receiver General of the Order.‡

The grant of three cartloads of wood for fuel weekly from the park of Neweton was repeated in a missive addressed

* Plac. Quo War. Somers. 27 Hen. III., M 5 13 } 1. m. 9.

† Ped. Fin. Somers. 28—40 Hen. III., n. 1.

‡ MS. in Coll. Arm., L. 17, f. 153. Appendix, No. XII.

to William de Plessetis, keeper of the park, with the previous concession as to the time of gathering. It was dated, "teste, ut supra, per reginam," at Westminster, on the 2nd of February, 38 Henry III., 1253-4.*

An appointment by patent was addressed to Henry de Bratton, in the 44th year of Henry III., 1259, 1260, to take an assize of novel disseisin which the Prior of the Hospital in England had arraigned against Henry de Erlegh and others, touching common of pasture in Pedreton.† This and similar entries are short notes of the writ or precept addressed to the Justices to try the cause so specified. The result in most of these early cases is unknown, from the record of the proceedings having long since perished.‡

Other writs of the same kind were directed in the 48th year of Henry III., to Matthew de Littlebury, in a case between William de Montacute and the Prioress of Boclaunde, touching the Church of Cheddeseye ;§ in the 52nd year of the same King, to Adam de Greyvile, in a case between the same parties, touching the same church :‖ in the 53rd year of the same, to Matthew de Littlebiry, between the Prior of the Hospital in England, and Henry de Erlegh and others, of common of pasture, etc., in Petherton;¶ in the same year, to Thomas Trevet, between Robert le Taylur, of Brugeswalter (Bridgwater) and the Prioress of Bokland, of tenements in Northpertton ;** and in the 55th year, to Henry de Wolavington, between Edward de Andeure and Walter le Catte, and the Prioress of Bokeland and others, of a tenement in Bokeland.†† These and many other notices

* Claus. 38 Hen. III., m. 12. † Pat. 44 Hen. III., m. 5 dors.

‡ The process of Assize of Novel Disseisin is fully explained in Fitzherbert's Natura Brevium, *sub voce*, pp. 409—416.

§ Pat. 48 Hen. III., m. 19 dors. ‖ Pat. 52 Hen. III., m. 11 dors.

¶ Pat. 53 Hen. III., m. 1 dors. ** Pat. 53 Hen. III., m. 3 dors.

†† Pat. 55 Hen. III., m. 28 dors.

in the course of this history, however at first sight or to general readers apparently small and unimportant, are all that are presented by enormous masses of records, long searches among which have oftentimes to be made before the grain of information which is the object of those investigations rewards the explorer. They are, however, I hardly need say, always most suggestive, and would stand for the text of a long and interesting commentary.

Previous to the 15th of February, 1270-1, which was the day of his decease, Roger de Veer, Prior of the Hospital in England, paid a visit to Bukland to inspect the state of the House. He found great difference and discord prevailing between the Preceptor and the Prioress and Convent, about a number of matters intimately affecting the Prioress and her Sisters. There is little doubt, as in an instance which will be before us presently, that the Preceptor looked with a grudging eye on the requirements of the Sisterhood, and hardly endured to part with the funds which he was compelled to advance towards their maintenance. The Prior appears to have felt that nothing but peremptory measures would ensure peace. With the assent of his chapter at Melcheburn, he made among other regulations the following :—"That the Prioress and Convent should have their own steward, who should sit at the table of the Preceptor ; and one servant, who should sit with the servants of the Preceptor, and be there daily at table unless the steward should otherwise appoint him. That at the feast of S. Michael, when the steward should desire to hold his court at Hele, he should have of the cellarer five white loaves and his flagons full of ale ; and that at the same feast, when he should hold his courts at Kinmersdon and Primmilegh, he should have just so many ; and at Hokeday just so many ; but that he should

have the furniture of his horse and all other necessaries at the delivery and appointment of the Prioress and Convent. Also that, if in anything he should be at fault, it should be lawful for the Prioress to keep him from meddling with their goods, but not to remove him from his office without the consent of the Prior. Moreover, that the Sisters should have a secular priest to celebrate for the soul of Sister Ffina, sometime Prioress there, and for the souls of the founders and benefactors of the said House, who should sit at table with the brethren, and have his bed in the dormitory among the priests and clerks, and for the rest of his time should be at the order of the Prioress; so that the Preceptor should have an allowance of five marcs for the table of the said priest, and also of the one brother who celebrated the mass of Blessed Mary, and also three shillings at the feast of S. Michael for the clerk of the chapel."* The calm which this arrangement produced was at best but temporary, and we shall soon have to notice some evidences of the feeling with which it was regarded by the Preceptor and his brethren, by whom the establishment of the neighbouring Sisterhood was clearly considered a grievance of no common order.

In or about the year 1270, the Hospitalars of Boclande were returned among other Somersetshire landowners as holding five virgates of land, of the annual value of fifty shillings.†

About the same time the Sisters were returned in the presentment of a jury as holding the property already mentioned as the donation of the Countess of Leicester.‡

* MS. in Off. Arm. L. 17, f. 153 b. Appendix, No. XIII.

† Test. de Nevill, f. 759, p. 173.

‡ Rott. Hundred. Edw. I. Devon. vol. 1. pp. 70, 94.

In Hilary Term, 4 Edward I., 1276, the Sisters are stated on the verdict of a jury to have common of pasture for eight oxen and two cows in a place of forty acres situated in Rolneston ; and James de Stapleford, the farmer of the aforesaid Sisters, to have seisin of the same.*

At an Assize held at Montacute, on the feast of S. Martin, in the 4th year of Edward I., the 11th of November, 1276, the Prior of the Hospital in England sought the assistance of the law against the Prior of Tanton, Herbert de Calne, and John de Messager, to recover damages for the narrowing of a road in Esse (Ash Prior's), by which it was rendered impassable for vehicles, to the injury of his free tenement in Hause. The jury gave a verdict against Herbert, who was ordered to put the said road into its ancient state at his own proper cost. Against the other parties the Prior was non-suited.† I am particular in recording these circumstances in the history of Halse, inasmuch as it was a "limb" of the Buckland estate, and was superintended, as we shall see presently, by the Preceptor of that House. They are, accordingly, of greater value to us than would at first sight appear.

At Ivelchester, on the vigil of S. James, 7 Edward I., the 24th of July, 1279, the Prioress of Boclande was essoined, or excused from appearance, in an action against R. le Wylde, of plea of assize of mortdauncestor.‡

The Preceptor of the Hospital of Buckland was often employed in matters of trust little or not at all connected with his House. On the death, for example, of Philip de

* Hilar. an. 4 Edw. I. de Jur. et Ass. rot. 14. Abbrev. Plac. p. 189.

† Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 4 Edw. I. N 2 1 } 12, m. 31.

‡ Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 7 Edw. I. N 2 3 } 2. m. 23 dors. See Fitzherbert, N.B. p. 451.

Erlegh, lord of the manor of Northpetherton, in 1275, who held that manor of the King in chief, and left behind him John his son and heir, then under age, and Roys his widow, the Master of the ladies of Boclaunde was appointed guardian of the manor during the young heir's minority. The letters patent, dated, witness the King, at Windsor, the 21st of July, 3 Edward I., 1275, set forth that, at the instance of William de Hanleye, who was at that time Prior of the Hospital in England, the King granted to the Preceptor of Boclaund the wardship of the manor of Northpederton, to be held by him until the heir should come to lawful age, at a yearly payment to the exchequer of xxj^{li}, with reservation of the advowson of the church of the said manor, all knights' fees, wards, reliefs, and escheats, if any should chance to accrue. The Master produced these letters at the assizes held at Somerton, on the morrow of the feast of the Ascension, 8 Edward I., 1280; and the jury added to their presentment of the above mentioned facts that the widow of the deceased Philip held the manor of Durston in dower, of the yearly value of xx^{li}, and described the lady as "in donatione domini Regis, et maritanda."* Between the date of the letters patent and that of this presentment a difficulty had arisen which required the interference of the crown. We find, by an entry on the Close Roll of the 5th year of Edward I., that an assignment of dower was made to the same lady, by Robert de Radinton, the subescheator, dated on Friday next after the feast of S. Margaret, in the 3rd year of Edward I., which is coincident with the 26th July, 1275, to the amount of xj^{li} vij^{s} vij$\frac{1}{2}^{d}$, from lands and rents in the manor of Northpederton. This had not been taken into

* Plac. Quo War. Somers. 8 Edw. I., $\left.\begin{matrix} M \\ 5 \\ 15 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 2. m. 8.

account when the custody of the manor during the nonage of the heir had been committed, as before related, to the Preceptor of Boclaund, who was to pay the annual sum of xxj^{li} to the King's exchequer, of which sum xj^{li} vij^{s} vij$\frac{1}{2}^{d}$, were already absorbed in the payment of the dower aforesaid. To rectify the mistake, the King addressed a writ to the Barons of the Exchequer, that they should credit the Preceptor with so much of the amount which he had bound himself to pay for the wardship of the manor, and to give him due exoneration and plenary quittance of the same. The writ was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 1st of May, 1277.*

At the Assizes just referred to, the presentment of a jury of twelve of the burg of Yvelcestre furnished the following marvellous narrative. They reported that "Adam le Messer, at a certain gaol delivery before Thomas Trivet and his fellows, the Justices Itinerant assigned to deliver the gaol, was convicted of very many robberies, and was hanged together with other criminals; that afterwards, through the hospital—per hospital'—of Boklaunde he was conveyed to the cemetery of S. Olave for burial; that when he arrived in the cemetery he was half alive, and was placed in the said church, and there remained for fifteen days; and that before William Tesson the Coroner he acknowledged that he had stolen two horses and had been guilty of other robberies, and abjured the kingdom. He had no chattels." "It was further testified by the sheriff and a jury of twelve, that one Thomas de Reyny and Ranulph de Vaus were apprehended, forasmuch as it was said that they ought to have struck down the aforesaid Adam, and were imprisoned in that burg, and

* Claus. 5 Edw. I., m. 8.

afterwards before S[olomon]. de Roff, Thomas Trivet, and others, by writ of our lord the King for their release were acquitted."*

The Church of Chedzoy was again at this time the subject of litigation. At the same Assizes the Prior of the Hospital contested the right of presentation to that Church against Simon de Montacute. The Prior pleaded that Terricus, Prior of the Hospital, one of his predecessors, had been seised of the advowson of the Church of Chedesseye as of the fee and right of the Hospital, and in proof of the same had presented one Osbert his clerk to the aforesaid Church ; which clerk had been admitted and instituted at his presentation, in the time of K. John, the grandfather of the present King. Simon defended his right, and the case came for trial. John Fitz Geoffrey, Robert de S. Clare, Humfrey de Kael, and Walter de Loveny, four Knights, were elected to choose the Assize. They came and choose John Fitz Geoffrey, Robert de S. Clare, Simon de Gryndeham, Thomas de Pyn, William le Bret, Adam de Baggetreppe, Peter de Bosco, Andrew Wake, Roger Fitz Pagan, Walter de Dunneheved, Thomas de S. Vigor, and Walter Pauncefot, who returned a verdict on oath that Simon had a greater right in the advowson aforesaid than the Prior, and that he and his heirs should hold the same. The Prior accordingly, lost his cause.† It is certain, however, that the Church of Chedzoy was among the benefactions of William de Erlegh to his foundation at Buckland, as we have already noticed at an earlier page.

* Plac. Quo War. Somer. 8 Edw. I. M 5 15 } 2. m. 46.

† Plac. Quo War. Somers. 8 Edw. I. M 5 13 } 4. m. 5 dors.

In his position as lord of the Manor of Halse, the Prior of the Hospital had many and important privileges. One of these consisted in the appropriation of the chattels of felons. An instance of this occured at the present period. Ralph de Melcheburne of Hause murdered Hugh his brother at that place. The criminal was taken and imprisoned at Ilchester, and died in the gaol there. The jury presented that the Master of the Hospital of Boclaunde had taken of the chattels of the said Ralph the sum of xv^{s} vj^{d}.*

Some time before this date the chapel of Kynemersdon was sacrilegiously broken into and plundered. It will be remembered that Kynmersdon was given in the first place by William de Erlegh to his foundation at Buckland, and was transferred to the Hospitalars about the year 1180. The transfer was made by King Henry II., as already noticed, which may have induced the jurors of a subsequent date to describe the Church as having been anciently given by a King of England to the Brethren of the Hospital.† The chapel figures prominently in a cause at the eventful Assizes, so prolific in details connected with Buckland history, the facts of which might not inaptly serve for the plot of a modern romance. The matter of dispute was some property at Kynemersdon, which Philip de Aubeny claimed against Robert de Boyton, Mary his wife, and others. The latter declared that one Geoffrey de Soleny had enfeoffed him and his wife of the aforesaid property by his charter which he made to them, and put them in plenary seisin of the same. The former asserted that he was in good and peacable seisin of the tenements by a charter of feoffment of Ralph de Belylaund, as of his free tenement, before

* Plac. Quo War. Somers. 8 Edw. I. $\left.\begin{matrix} M \\ 5 \\ 15 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 2. m. 66.

† Rot. Hundred. II. 136.

the aforesaid Robert and Mary had aught in the same. A jury presented on oath the following extraordinary series of facts :—That Robert de Boyton was son-in-law of the aforesaid Geoffrey de Soleny, inasmuch as he had married his daughter ; that while the aforesaid Geoffrey resided in Cornwall, the aforesaid Robert had broken into a certain chapel situated in the manor of Kynemersdon, and also into a certain chest of the aforesaid Geoffrey which was in the same chapel ; that in the said chest he had found the seal of the said Geoffrey, with which he had forged a charter of feoffment of the property aforesaid, by the aid of which he had begun to lord it in the manor, asserting that he had been enfeoffed of the same by the aforesaid Geoffrey ; that Geoffrey, on understanding what was being done, had made all haste to the manor ; that as soon as Robert had received intelligence of the near arrival of Geoffrey, he had taken himself off and entirely absented himself ; that Geoffrey, on finding no obstacle nor contradiction, had entered the same as his property, making various judgments and dispositions as of his own for eight days ; that at the expiration of that period he had enfeoffed the aforesaid Ralph de Belilaund of the manor aforesaid ; that Ralph was thenceforth in good and peaceable seisin for fifteen days ; that afterwards the aforesaid Ralph had by his charter enfeoffed the aforesaid Philip, and put him in plenary seisin, which he by the same feoffment had enjoyed until the aforesaid Robert, Mary, and the rest had ejected him. The jury gave their verdict in favour of Philip, and presented that his disseisin was unlawful. Recovery of seisin was ordered accordingly, with damages against Robert of three hundred pounds.* Spiritual as well as civil penalties were the conse-

* Plac. Quo War. Somers. 8 Edw. I. $\left.\begin{matrix} M \\ 5 \\ 13 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 3. m. 34.

quence of this atrocious series of crimes, and on the culprit's purgation from the former, Robert, Bishop of Bath, addressed a letter to the King, "excellentissimo domino suo domino Edwardo," wishing him health "in Eo per Quem reges regnant et regnorum omnium gubernacula sustentantur," and soliciting for the honor of God and the liberty of the Church, inasmuch as the accused had canonically purged himself of the crime in his presence, the prompt restoration of his possessions and goods, which had been detained during the process of the investigation. The Bishop's letter concludes :—"Valeat excellentissima regia potestas vestra per tempora longiora," and is dated at Windsor, V. Id., the 9th, of Sept., 1281, and of his consecration the seventh.*

On the 6th of May, 1290, King Edward I. granted to William de Henleye, Prior of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem in England, and his successors, the privilege of having a market on Monday in every week in their manor of Hause (Halse), with all liberties and free customs appertaining to such a market. The usual proviso was added against any injury being caused by the said market to those in the neighbourhood. The witnesses were G[odfrey]. Bishop of Worcester; R[obert]. Bishop of Bath and Wells; A[nthony]. Bishop of Durham; and Thomas, Bishop of S. David's ; Edmund, the King's brother ; William de Valence, the King's uncle ; Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford ; Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln; Humfry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex ; Roger de Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, and Marshall of England ; Otto de Grandison ; Peter de Chaumpnent ; Richard de Bosco, and others. The grant was dated, by the King's hand, at Westminster, on the 6th of May, 1290.†

* Royal Letters, No. 1948.

† Cart. 18 Edw. I., n. 80. MS. Coll. Arm. L. 17. f. 156. Appendix, No. XIV.

In the same year, 1290, was made the famous Taxatio of Pope Nicholas IV. The Vicarage of Perton was then valued at £7 0s. 0d.; and the Church of Elleworth at £4 6s. 8d.*

The favour of collecting fire wood from the park of Neuton, Perton, or Petherton, appears, as I have remarked, to have been often contested. In the year 1290, the Nuns were obliged to petition the King in parliament with a view to the restoration of their rights. They submitted that since the battle of Evesham, A.D., 1265, they had been hindered in their ancient privilege, and humbly solicited the King's favour in the restitution of the same.†

Sir Richard de Plesseto, or de Placey, Knt., lord of Nyweton Forestars, a descendant of Richard de Wrotham already noticed, who died 20 Edw. I., 1292, founded, about two years before his decease, a perpetual chantry in the chapel of S. Peter, in his court house of Nyweton, for God, and the health of his soul, and the souls of William de Plesseto, his uncle, and of his father and mother, and of his ancestors and successors, and of all the faithful departed. For the endowment of the same, he granted in pure, free, and perpetual alms, to William de Hylpynton, or Hylprynton, the chaplain or chantry priest, and all his successors, who in after time should celebrate in that chapel, all the messuage which William de Greynton, chaplain, sometime occupied in Nyewton aforesaid, with all houses, curtilages and garden; together with a certain croft, annexed and included, containing nine acres; and with five acres and a half of arable land, of which two were situated in Ynymere, and three and a half in the parcel of arable land called Twenty acres; and one croft, containing twelve acres, hard by Mycheles-

* Tax. Eccl. P. Nich. IV., p. 198.
† Pet. in Parl., 18 Edw. I., n. 152, vol. I., 58.

chirche, called Ellenheye ; and nine acres of meadow of his meadow in the Heymore, hard by the park of Northpertone on the east, with all their appurtenances. Also pasturage for six oxen in all places where he had oxen of his own ; and for six cows at all times in his pasture of Lyntemore ; and right of common and pasturage for all his other beasts with those of the lord's tenants. Moreover he granted to the said William and his successors all the tithes greater and smaller, with all obventions derived from his court-house aforesaid, and from all his demesnes of Nyweton, together with the tithes derived from the park of Northpertone, as freely, quietly, and entirely for ever as William de Greynton, chaplain, his predecessor, had received the same. The aforesaid property was to be held by the said William and his successors, in free, pure, and perpetual alms, of him, his heirs and assigns for ever, with reservation of a certain portion of corn due of old time to the Mother Church. The grant concluded with the usual warranty and defence against all men and women for ever, and an acquittance of all suits of courts and hundreds. To this interesting charter the following are witnesses : Brother Richard de Bramforde, Preceptor of Bocland, Sir Geoffrey de Wrockeshale, Knt., Sir James de Plesseto, Richard de Nyewton, John de Marysco, Peter de Hamme, John Maugere, and many others.*

A fortunate doubt touching the foundation and status of this chantry of Newton Plecy, in the year 1418, on the appointment thereto of Richard Wyvyng, by the resignation of John Osborn, in the August of that year, resulted in the holding of an inquisition, in the parish church of Bruggewater, to determine the question. It

* Reg. Bubwith, ff. cxlviij, cxlviijb. Appendix, No. XV.

was held, on the 2nd of August, before John Storthwayt, LL.B., the Bishop's Commissary; and the jurors, William Andergate, Rector of Oterhampton; John Hancok, Rector of Chilton; Richard Lorgh, Rector of Cherdelynch, Robert Molang, Rector of Enemere; John Coors, vicar of Bruggewater; John Obba, vicar of Leng; William Clyve, vicar of Canyngton; John Sliper, chaplain of the Chantry of Blessed Mary in the church of Bruggewater; and John Pylet, John Godehyne, John Yoly, Richard Young, Thomas Michell, John Rokesmore, and John Habervyle, laymen, returned on oath that there was a chantry long ago erected in the chapel of S. Peter within the court-house of Newton Fforestars, otherwise called Newton Plecy, by Richard de Plesseto, of pious memory, Knt., sometime lord of Newton Fforestars, who founded and endowed the same by assigning to one William Hilpryntone a chapel with sundry lands and tenements, and other rights and goods, in pure and perpetual alms. They further presented that it was a chantry, and not a free chapel or a parish church, which were names given to it afterwards in error and inadvertence; that the chantry was not taxed, and was of the annual value of one hundred shillings.* As proof of the truth of their presentment, the ancient charter of foundation was exhibited, and a copy of it in the Register, appended to the account of the inquisition, has happily furnished us with this curious and interesting series of facts. It was in this manner, let me remind the reader, that the Church obtained her glebe and tithes; and an attempt by so-called law to confiscate these possessions is as plain an infringement of inalienable right as any other fraudulent endeavour against which that law is called into righteous exercise.

* Reg. Bubwith, ff. cxlvijb, cxlviij.

In the year 1292, Isabel was Prioress of Bucklande. With Philip de Albinaco, William de Botereus, and Joan widow of Roger de Lokynton, she was a party in a suit of novel disseisin against Thomas de S. Vigor and Walter Wygog, touching common of pasture in Stratton by Kynmersdon, an appurtenance of their free tenement in that place. At the hearing of the cause, at Somerton, on Tuesday next before the feast of S. Margaret, 20 Edward I., which is coincident with the 15th of July, 1292, they were not present, and sentence was given accordingly in favour of Thomas and Walter. It would appear that the damages fell exclusively on Philip and William, and their pledges Adam de la Slou and Robert Ris, while Joan and the Prioress were exonerated, "quia pauperes."*

In 1296, the Prior of the Hospital in England and the Prioress of Boclond contested a plea of mort d'auncestor against Alice, daughter of Reginald atte Churche, of Alynton, and Matilda her sister. They were excused from attendance at Bath, on Tuesday next after the feast of S. John Baptist, 24 Edward I., the 26th of June, 1296; and the hearing was postponed to the assizes at Tanton, on Thursday next before the feast of the Translation of S. Swithun, the 12th of the following month.†

In 1297, the 25th of Edward I., the Master of the Hospital of Bokland was returned from the counties of Somerset and Dorset, as holding lands or rents to the amount of £20 yearly value or upwards, either *in capite* or otherwise; and as such he was summoned under the general

* Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 20 Edw. I., N 2 8 } 3. m. 7 dors.

† Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 24 Edw. I., N 2 9 } 8. mm. 7, 18.

writ to perform military service, &c., in parts beyond the sea. The muster was at London, on the Sunday next after the Octaves of S. John the Baptist, or the 7th of July, 1297.*

In the Perambulation of the Forest of North Petherton, dated the 25th of May, 26 Edward I., 1298, it is set forth that John de Erlegh holds the manor of North Petherton, with the moors, &c.; that the Prior of S. John of Jerusalem holds the hamlet of Gogestode, the Priory of Bokeland, the hamlets of Taklestone and Heggynge, with the woods, moors, marshes, &c., and the hamlet of Bidone, with the moors, marshes, &c.; that Geoffrey de Wrokeshall and Reylia his wife hold the manor of Durston, with the hamlet of Myghleschurch; that Richard de Nywton holds the vill of Hawyse-Nywton; that Joan de Reyny holds the hamlet of Sirdeston; and that Sabina Hayrun and Athelina Durante hold the vill of Nywton Forester.†

In the year 1301, an amicable arrangement was after considerable differences arrived at between Geoffrey Samuel and William his son on the one part, and the Prioress Isabel la Louwe and the Convent of Sisters of Boclonde on the other, touching the celebration of Divine Service in the chapel constructed in their court-house at Lokynton, in the parish of Kynemersdone. It was at length agreed that the Prioress and Convent, for themselves and their successors, should recognise and grant to the aforesaid Geoffrey and William, and their heirs or assigns, a celebration in the aforesaid chapel, on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, in every week, to be performed by the perpetual Vicar of Kynemersdon, in return for a tenement which the Prioress and Convent held of the fee of the aforesaid Geoffrey and William in Lokynton. The celebration was to take place on

* Parl. Writs, I., 293, 477. MS. Harl. 1192, f. 7.
† Per. For. de North Petherton, 26 Edward I.

the days aforesaid, when the lord or lady should be there present. If through any necessary case of emergency the Vicar should not be able to come to the chapel for the celebration of mass on any Sunday, a chaplain was nevertheless to be sent by the aforesaid Vicar to say the service of the day, and to perform various other sacred acts ; and also, for the duty of that Sunday not fully completed, the Vicar himself was to celebrate on the morrow in the aforesaid chapel. To the constant maintenance of this celebration, Geoffrey and William bound themselves and their heirs in one quarter of corn, to be paid, for the performance of the duty aforesaid, every year to the said Vicar from their manor of Lokynton, at the feast of S. Michael, without any contradiction or impediment. A counterpart of this agreement was kept by either party, to which the seal of the other was appended. The witnesses were Sir John de Erle, Sir Thomas de Wellesleghe, and Sir Robert de Panes, Knts., William Wazon, John Page, Henry de Niwele, John de Caulesworthe, Thomas de S. Vigor, Walter Touere, and others. The agreement was dated in full chapter of the Prioress and Convent of Boclonde, on Monday next after the feast of S. Faith, Virgin, in the 29th year of Edward I., or the 9th of October, 1301. Bishop Drokenesford ratified, accepted, and by diocesan authority solemnly confirmed the same, by an instrument sealed and dated at Banewelle, the 19th of November, 1328, and of his consecration the twentieth.* The arrangement was prolific of trouble, and will soon be again before us.

The family of Samuel often finds a place at this period in records connected both with litigation and with the transfer of property. For example : At Westminster, in

* Reg. Drok. fol. cccb. Appendix, No. XVI. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 132.

Easter Term, 17 Edward I., 1289, a final concord was made between Geoffrey Samuel and Agnes his wife, and Walter Spark of Donewere and Margery his wife, whereby the former parted in favour of the latter with one messuage, eighty-two acres of arable land, and seventeen acres of meadow land, with seventeen pence of rent in Northpederton, Donewere, and Syrdeston.* At York, in Easter Term, 28 Edward I., 1300, a final concord was made between Geoffrey and William Samuel and Robert Carevill, respecting one messuage and one carucate of land with appurtenances in Lokington by Kynemeresdon, the former paying to the latter one hundred marcs of silver.† Also at Westminster, in the octaves of the Holy Trinity, 6 Edward II., 1313, a final concord was made between William Samuel and Agnes his wife, and Richard de Fflory, respecting one messuage and one carucate of land in Lokyngton by Kynemersdon.‡ Again, at Westminster, in the octaves of the Holy Trinity, 8 Edward II., 1315, a final concord was made between Richard de Fflory and William Samuel, touching one messuage, one carucate of land, ten acres of meadow, fifty acres of heath, and sixteen shillings of rent in Babynton, Lokynton, Walton, Middelcote, and Melles; the aforesaid Richard paying to William one hundred marcs of silver.§ Further, at Westminster, in Michaelmas Term, 19 Edward II., 1325, a final concord was made between William Samuel and Agnes his wife, and John de Coumbe, touching two messuages, one carucate of arable land, six acres of meadow, seventeen acres of

* Ped. Fin. Somers. 1—20 Edw. I., n. 118.

† Ped. Fin. Somers. 21—35 Edw. I., n. 64. See also Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 26 Edw. I., N 2 10 3. m. 10., and 27 Edw. I., N 2 11 1. m. 21.

‡ Ped. Fin. Somers. 1—6 Edw. II., n. 136.

§ Ped. Fin. Somers, 7—12 Edw. II., n. 84.

pasture, ten acres of wood, and forty shillings of rent, in Lokyngton, Walton, and Colford.* And lastly, at the same place and time, a final concord was made between John Samuel and Sarah his wife, and the same John de Coumbe, touching two messuages, two carucates of arable land, twenty acres of meadow, seven acres of pasture, two acres of wood, and seven shillings of rent, in Pulton and Cumpton.† John Iryssh is mentioned as the kinsman and heir of William Samuel of Lokynton, in a final concord made in Michaelmas Term, 36 Edward III., 1362.‡

The year 1306 brought a further increase of property. The process was exactly similar to that which I have fully explained in my History of Taunton Priory, and does not require further illustration. A writ was addressed to the Sheriff of Somerset, dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 16th of October, 1305, to examine and report whether it would be to the damage of the King or others, if Thomas de Berkelay should have leave to give two shops, with their appurtenances, in Welles, to the Prioress and Sisters of Boclande. To this were appended the usual questions as to the kind of damage, if any, the person or persons of whom, and the service by which the shops were held, their annual value in all issues, the mesnes between the King and the said Thomas, and the property held by him beyond the proposed gift to satisfy the various customs, services, and other burdens pertaining to the same. An inquest in obedience to this precept was held at Somerton, before John de Montacute, the King's Escheator, on the Monday after Palm Sunday in the following year, or the

* Ped. Fin. Somers. 13—20 Edw. II., n. 65.
† Ped. Fin. Somers. 13—20 Edw. II., n. 71.
Plac. Q.W. 3 Edw. II. N 2 15 } 1. mm. 7, 23.
‡ Ped. Fin. Somers. 29—38 Edw. III., n 62.

28th of March, 1306; and the jurors, William atte Wythye, Robert Bouche, Thomas de Mertok, John le Veysy, William de Dunsterre, William Stot, Robert de Sowy, Geoffrey de Bowyare, Walter Cammel, Thomas de Bradelegh, Ralph le Plomer, and William de Schepton, returned a verdict on oath that it would not be to the damage of the King or others if such licence should be granted; that the said Thomas de Berkelay held the aforesaid shops with other tenements in Welles of the Bishop of Bath and Wells and his successors in chief, by a service of eight pence a year for every service; that the Bishop held the same of the King in chief, as pertaining to his manor of Welles; that the said Thomas held other tenements in Welles sufficient for all burdens; and that the shops were worth in all issues eighteen shillings a year. The return bears the endorsement that the said Thomas is to have the licence requested on the payment of one hundred shillings, the money to be paid before he has the charter. The letters patent, which were granted in the autumn of the same year, make mention of the fine, and, with the usual reservations to the chief lords, enable both parties, the donor to give, and the Prioress and Sisters to accept, the property. They are dated, witness the King, at Lanercost, the 20th of October, 34 Edward I., 1306.*

At the Assizes held at Somerton, on Friday next after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 34 Edward I., or the 16th of September, 1306, a cause was tried as to whether John le Ropere of la Pole, and Agnes his wife, and Peter de Bradestone had unjustly disseised William Clode, of Midelhulle, and Sibil his wife of certain free tenements in Halse and la Pole by Halse. The

* Esch. 34 Edw. I., n. 178. Pat. 34 Edw. I., m. 4.

jury returned a verdict or oath in favour of John and the others, and that the complaint was without foundation.*

In the following year at the Assizes held at the same place, on Friday next after the Octave of the Nativity of S. John Baptist, the 7th of July, 1307, William Grey, the vicar of Hause, paid a fine to the King of one hundred shillings for violent entry into and conduct in the house of Robert de la Pole of Hause.†

Four years subsequent to this date, Thomas de Berkelee, previously mentioned, granted to the Prioress and Sisters, under very peculiar circumstances, four pounds of rent, with appurtenances, issuing from lands and tenements in Hamme, held by Thomas de Stane of the the said Thomas. The sum was to be received by them in aid of the maintenance of his daughter Isabel, a Sister of the Hospital of Boclond. It was to be paid to them during the life of this lady, and after her decease was to revert entirely to its former master, and his heirs. The letters patent describe the Priory as very poor, "quod nimis exile esse dinoscitur," and convey the King's license for this seasonable help. They are dated, witness the King, at London, the 25th of August, 1311.‡ The lady was afterwards Prioress of Buckland.

On the morrow of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the 5th year of Edward II., the 3rd of February, 1311-2, a final concord was made at Westminster, between William, Prior of the Hospital in England, and Hugh de Reigny and Juliana his wife, touching sixty acres of land in Northpederton. The agreement was that the Prior and

* Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 34 Edw. I., N 2 13 } 2. m. 12 dors.

† Plac. Quo War. Somers. 35 Edw. I. M 5 15 } 5. m. 4.

‡ Pat. 5 Edw. II., p. 1, m. 20.

his successors should hold the land of the chief lords of the fee, with payment of the service customarily rendered for the said lands. For this property the Prior granted to the aforesaid Hugh and Juliana sixty acres of land in Northpederton, of which sixteen acres lay in a certain large field called Ffarentonfeld, hard by the Wardeweye, and forty-four acres lay in a certain field called Bulledonefeld, between the land of John de Erlegh on the south and of John de Reigny on the north. These were similarly to be held of the chief lords of the fee, and with payment of the customary service.*

In the Octaves of the Purification of Blessed Mary, in the 7th year of Edward II., or within the seven days next following the 2nd of February, 1313-4, a final concord was made between John le Porter, of Boklond, possibly a servant of the House, and Alice his wife, and William Ffulchir and Juliana his wife, concerning one toft and four acres of land in Northpederton. For this agreement John and Alice gave William and Juliana one sore sparhawk.†

The Master of the Hospital was certified, pursuant to writ tested at Clipston, 5th of March, 9 Edward II., 1315-6, as one of the lords of the township of North Petherton.‡

In the Ordination of the Vicarage of Poulet, made in the following year, the Vicar was to pay every year one marc of silver to the Sisters of Bocland; that is to say, at the feast of S. Michael half a marc, and at Easter half a marc.§

* Ped. Fin. Somers. 1—6 Edw. II., n. 110.

† Ped. Fin. Somers. 7—12 Edw. II., n. 12.

‡ Parl. Writs, II., 378, 611.

§ Lib. Alb. Well. fol. 157b. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6968, Cart. p. 7

On the 13th of November, 1318, at York, the King granted to William de Erlegh and his heirs a market every week on Saturday in his manor of Northpederton, and a fair in the same place every year, to last during three days, to wit, on the vigil, day, and morrow of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of September. The ordinary reservations were added. Witnesses: W[illiam]. Archbishop of York, Primate of England; W[alter]. Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield; Th[omas]. Bishop of Worcester; Thomas, Earl of Lancaster; Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, and others.*

At the Assizes held at Cerde (Chard), on Monday in the first week of Lent, 14 Edward the II., the 18th of February, 1321, in the case of Roger atte Pole against John de Alyngton and others, touching a tenement in Halse, the former made no appearance, and judgment was accordingly for the latter party.†

On the 9th of March, 1320-1, John de Wherewell was Preceptor of the House of Boukelaunde. He was then ordained, appointed, and constituted by Richard de Leycestre, Prior of the church of Clerkenwell, by London, and the Religious Brethren of the lord Prior of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem in England, himself being absent from home on business, to be their true and legitimate agent, syndic, defender, executor and proctor, with special and general power for them and in their name, and that of the Hospital, and Brethren aforesaid, of all their possessions, immoveable and moveable, in the diocese of Bath and Wells; also of the possessions and lands formerly belonging to the Templars, and by the Most Holy

* Cart. 12 Edw. II., n. 54.

† Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 14 Edw. II. $\left.\begin{matrix} N \\ 2 \\ 17 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 2. m. 17 dors.

Apostolic See conceded and assigned to their Order and Hospital; with putting into possession and corporal induction of their benefices having cure of souls, according to the discretion, counsel, and ordination of the Diocesan, and of arranging, transacting, giving letters of acquittance, and performing and executing all other and singular things which belong to a true and legitimate proctor, agent, syndic, &c. The document concludes with the assertion that because the seal of the Prior was unknown to many, he had procured that of the Commissary in the Deanery of the Church of S. Paul in London to be affixed thereto, and that the said Commissary at the special request of the aforesaid Richard had affixed his official seal to those presents. Dated at Clerkenwell, the VII.th of the Ides, the 9th, of March, 1320.*

As minute particulars connected with the family of the founder of the House cannot but be interesting, I may place it on record that a licence for choosing a confessor was granted by the Bishop to John de Erle and Muriell his wife, dated at Wyvelescumb, XVII. Kal. April., the 16th of March, 1320-1.†

At the Assizes held at Somerton, on Friday, the feast of S. Bartholomew, 18 Edward II., the 24th of August, 1327, in a cause between John de Alyngton, John le Ropere and Agnes his wife, William le Ropere, and Gilbert atte Putte, of Halse, and Roger atte Pole, concerning a free tenement in Halse, the jury gave on oath a verdict for the former, and presented that John and the rest had not disseised the aforesaid Roger, as was the complaint of that party.‡

* Reg. Drokenesford, fol. clix.

† Reg. Drok. fol. clxxxiiij.

‡ Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 18 Edw. II. $\left.\begin{matrix} N \\ 2 \\ 17 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 9. m. 3.

On the 28th of August, 1329, died Thomas L'Archier, Prior of the Hospital in England. He gave to the Sisters of Bukland a yearly pension of forty shillings, to be drawn for ever from the manor of Hidone, a limb of Templecombe.*

During the same year, the Preceptor and Sisters were obliged to call in the aid of their ecclesiastical superiors against the harsh measures of Master Richard de Thistelden, their diocesan's official. The latter had called upon them to exhibit their title, if they had one, to the churches of Northpederton, Durston, Halse, Bromfeld, and Kynemersdon, in the diocese of Bath and Wells. These churches were, as we have already noticed, canonically appropriated to them, and had been so from ancient times. On their citation by him, as the Bishop's special commissary, to show their title and to pay the customary "obedience" in behalf of these churches, considerable harshness was exhibited; for, on their appearing and duly demanding to be furnished with a copy of his commission and of the certificate of citation, the commissary had not only neither cared to listen to their prayer nor acceded to their request, but had pronounced the aforesaid Religious contumacious, when they were not so, had fined them for such fictitious contumacy in an immoderate sum of money, and had ordered the fine to be levied forthwith from the Preceptor, Brethren, and Sisters of Boclaunde, to the no small prejudice and grievance of the said Religious. An appeal from the injured party was forwarded to the Apostolic See, which was promptly followed by an inhibition of the Court of Canterbury against his attempting aught, or allowing others so to do, to the prejudice of the appellants

* MS. Cott. E. VI. f. 467b. See Appendix, No. V.

during the pending of the suit in the said Court. He was further cited to appear before the Official of the Court, or his commissary, in the Church of S. Mary Aldermary, in London, on the next juridical day after the octaves of S. Hilary, Bishop, in the matter of the said appeal, to proceed, act, and receive as justice should determine. And, lastly, he was to certify by his letters to the Official or his commissary of the day on which he received this citation, and his course of action in respect of the premises. The mandate was dated at London, VI. Kal. Octobr., the 26th of September, 1329.*

The arrangement lately mentioned in connexion with the chapel of Lokynton, or Leeke, was not fully and faithfully observed, and the fact gave occasion to the head of the house of Samuel to exhibit the fondness for litigation which was an evil characteristic of that family. On the Monday next after the feast of S. Matthew, the Apostle, in the fourth year of Edward III., the 24th of September, 1330, Agnes, the widow of William Samuel, took four oxen belonging to the Prioress in a place called Bromham, in Kynemersdon, and detained the same, to the damage to the said Prioress of twenty pounds, on the pretext that the stipulated services in the chapel of Lokynton, which, as it appears, was dedicated to S. Peter, were in arrear. Thereupon the Prioress, Isabel de Berkeleye, doubtless the lady whose name has been already before us,† summoned the said Agnes to answer to her plea setting forth the alleged wrong, and soliciting restitution. The case came on in the Michaelmas Term following, and is reported both on the De Banco Roll of that Term and in

* Reg. Rad. ff. x, xb. Appendix, No. XVII. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 17.

† Page 39.

the Year Book of the period. The former authority states that the Prioress, by her attorney Nicholas Martyn, made the complaint aforesaid; in reply to which, Agnes, by her attorney John de Coumbe, defended the capture and detention of the oxen for the reason already given. She further affirmed that a certain Isabel la Lowe, formerly Prioress of Boclonde, and predecessor of the present Prioress, had made the arrangement which has been described at an earlier page, and added that the services aforesaid were in arrear for a year and a half on the day of the capture complained of, and that the oxen were taken by her as parcel of the tenements charged with the aforesaid services, as she had a right to do. The Prioress on her part denied that either Agnes or William her late husband was ever seised of the said services by the hand of the Prioress herself or of her aforesaid predecessor.* In the Year Book the case is reported somewhat more in detail. The proceedings, as there given, are in avowry, and the question is raised as to the lawfulness of a certain distress levied by Agnes, widow of William Samuel, upon Isabel de Berch, Prioress de Buckeland, through the alleged non-performance of the terms of the covenant. Agnes, by a plaint sued by the Prioress, is made defendant, and called upon to give reasons for levying the distress. It is stated that "Agnes Samuel avoweth a distress upon Isabel de Berch, Prioress of Buckland, by reason that one M., a predecessor of the said Isabel, held of Richard Flory a messuage and acre of land by fealty and the service of finding a chaplain to sing, in the chapel within his manor of Leeke, masses, matins, and vespers, on three days in the week through-

* Plac. de Banco, Mich. 4 Edw. III., r. ccv dors.

out the whole year, to wit Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday, and to find in the same chapel bread, and wine, and other things suitable for the celebration of Divine Service, "pan', et vine, et auters ornam'ts pur divines servic' celebrer," of which services Richard was seised; the which Richard gave and granted the manor, with the chapel to which the services related, to William, the late husband of the same Agnes,* and to Agnes, and to the heirs of their two bodies; the which M. made attornment of the said services to William and Agnes; and after the death of William this same Agnes was seised, by the hand of the said Isabel, &c., and for the singing in arrear for two years."†

The defence that was set up to Agnes Samuel's case was that the Vicar by a certain composition received a quarter of wheat for the fulfilment of the duties, which were performed by a priest employed by him. And the question was whether the facts alleged by the Prioress were sufficient answer to bar Agnes Samuel of her action, or whether on the other hand she were justified in levying the distress. We do not know the issue, as the case was carried over to the ensuing Hilary Term, among the proceedings of which, however, I do not find it—a fact which is possibly to be explained by the result of another case recorded on the roll previously referred to. It would appear that the vicar of Kynmersdon, the real defaulter, instituted proceedings against Agnes Samuel, for non-payment of his dues, and put her in the Spiritual Court. Upon this she brought an action against the vicar, for having, in contravention of legal prohibition, carried his plea into the Court Christian against the said Agnes, and

* See among the documents already quoted, page 36.
† Year Book, Mich. 4 Edw. III., pl. 52.

caused her to be cited before the official of the Court of Canterbury, on Tuesday next after the feast of the Conversion of S. Paul, in the 4th year of Edward III., the 29th of January, 1329-30, at London, in the Church of S. Mary Aldermary. It further appeared that afterwards the said Agnes, on Sunday next before the feast of S. Gregory, Pope, the 11th of March, 1329-30, at Kynemersdon, in the presence of John de Combe, Geoffrey Golde, Philip le Irissh, and Geoffrey Samuel, had presented the king's brief of prohibition to the said William, and had forbidden him on the part of the king to pursue that plea further in the Court Christian; and that the said William had nevertheless pursued his plea, until at his suit the said Agnes stood excommunicated, in contravention of the said prohibition, to the damage as she affirmed of one hundred pounds. The issue of a lengthy process of law was that the jury returned a verdict on oath that the vicar had carried his cause into the Court Christian in the manner complained of, to the damage to the said Agnes of twenty pounds, which sum he was adjudged to pay.* A writ was eventually addressed by the King, dated at Westminster, the 26th of November, 1331, to Bishop Ralph de Salopia, commanding him to sequester the sum of twenty pounds from the goods of William, vicar of Kynemersdon, and to pay the same to Agnes Samuel. This was followed by a return from the Bishop of the goods of the said vicar, with the addition that the sum commanded had been paid to Agnes, who confessed herself fully satisfied, and that peace was restored between them.†

In the year 1335 the Lord Bishop furnished a certificate to the King of the churches, advowsons, and pensions

* Plac. de Banco, Mich. 4 Edw. III., r. cxxiij.
† Reg. Rad. fol. xlviijb.

which the Prior and Brethren of the Hospital possessed in the diocese of Bath and Wells. In reply to a writ, the terms of which will be evident from his answer to it, the Bishop wrote as follows :—

"To the most excellent Prince and Lord, his Lord Edward, &c. Ralph, &c. We have received in your brief your Lordship's letters of the following tenor : Edward, &c. Under colour of which letters, we have received what information we could touching all and singular matters in the same contained, and find that the Prior and Brethren of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem possess in our diocese to their proper uses the churches of Halse, which is of the annual value of x^{li}; of Durston, which is of the annual value, with the tithes of Coggelode by Boclande [there is still a "Coglett Farm" in the immediate neighbourhood of the site of the Priory], of eight marcs; of Northpederton, which is of the annual value of sixty marcs; of Kynemersdone, which is of the annual value of twenty-four marcs. They have also in our diocese the advowsons of the churches of Ellesworthe, taxed in six marcs and a half; of Tolonde, taxed in three marcs; and Hethfeld, taxed in five marcs. They draw besides an annual pension of two shillings from the chapel of Dodyngdon, in the parish of Netherstauweye; an annual pension of two shillings from the church of Toulonde; an annual pension of twenty shillings from the church of Bekyngton; and an annual pension of one marc from the church of Poulet; which all and singular belong to the aforesaid Hospital, and have belonged to it in our diocese from ancient time. Churches, however, or benefices appropriated or of which they have the advowson, portions or pensions by reason of lands which formerly belonged to the Templars, they have none in our diocese so far as we know, the

Church of the Temple at Bristoll, which they have to their proper uses, from which they draw two marcs a year by the hand of the vicar there, alone excepted. To this it should be added that Icherius de Concoreto, canon of Salisbury, late nuncio of the Apostolic See, and principal collector of the first fruits of vacant benefices, touching which fuller mention is made in your letters, sold the first fruits of the greater and richer benefices in our diocese to the then holders of the said benefices, and as seemed to him expedient disposed of the same. How much is levied from first fruits themselves in our diocese, or if anything or how much is from thence up to the present time in arrear, we have not from the time of the receipt of such your letters been able fully to be informed, nor at present can we certify your Lordship in this part distinctly and openly, according to the contents of such your letters, touching which we beg your Royal Highness to deign, if it please you, to hold us excused, whom may the King of Kings of His clemency direct through prosperous and happy successes. Dated at Banewelle, the xxvijth day of the month of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand ccc xxxv."*

Isabel, Prioress of Bokelond, John le Cokes and Lettice his wife, and Robert de Assheford, who were parties against William de Holewille in a suit of novel disseisin, were excused from attendance at Somerton, on Monday next after the feast of S. Laurence, 9 Edward III., the 6th of February, 1334-5, and the cause was carried over to the assizes to be held in the same place, on Tuesday next before the feast of the Annun-

* Reg. Rad. ff. cxxvj. cxxvjb, Appendix, No. XVIII. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 93.

ciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the 21st of the following March.*

At Somerton, on Monday next after the feast of S. Laurence, 11 Edward III., the 3rd of February, 1336-7, this same William de Holewille who brought a writ of assize of novel disseisin against Isabel, Prioress of Bokelond, and others, touching a tenement in Bromfeld, was not present, and judgment accordingly went against him and his pledges John West and Robert North.†

In the 11th year of King Edward III., 1337, died John de Erlegh, seised at the time of his death of the manors of Durston, North Petherton, Somerton Erle, Bekington, Michaelchurch, &c. The fact of special interest in our present enquiry is that he left behind him a son John, who, according to a Proof of Age to recover seisin of his lands, taken (in answer to a writ dated, witness the King, at Westminster, on the 4th of December, 28 Edward III., 1354,) at Durston, before John de Palton, the King's Escheator, on Thursday next after the feast of S. Nicholas, 28 Edward III., was born at Durston, on the 29th of November, 6 Edward III., 1332, and baptised in Durston Church by John de Somerton, Abbat of Mochelneye, who had a notice of it inscribed in the missal of Durston,‡—an anticipation of the family and parochial registers of subsequent times; and that he had another son named Richard, and three daughters, Katharine, Prioress of Buckland, Elizabeth wife of Sir John Stafford, and

* Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 9 Edw. III., $\left.\begin{matrix} N \\ 2 \\ 20 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 7. m. 9.

† Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 10-14 Edw. III., $\left.\begin{matrix} N \\ 2 \\ 20 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 4. m. 79 dors.

‡ Esch. 28 Edw. III., n. 71.

Alice wife of Sir Nicholas Poines. Here we have an instance, by no means uncommon, of a daughter of the noble house of a founder governing the Community which owed its origin to the piety of an ancestor long gone to his reward.

For the following year we possess an invaluable series of returns, which furnish us with a most lively picture of the system of the Hospital in full operation and activity. It will be remembered that, in the sketch which I gave of the Order, I showed that all the provincial Heads and Preceptors were simply delegates of the Prior of the Hospital in England, and had to account to him for the surplus of their receipts over their expenditure. The Hospital in England was only a portion of that widely-spread institution which had possessions in at least two-thirds of the then known world. An annual return was accordingly made from each of the Preceptories or Commandries by the Preceptor or Receiver to the Prior of England, and by him to the head-quarters of the Order, wherever those might happen to be. Happily for us, we possess one of these interesting balance-sheets, that for the year 1338, which was fortunately discovered at Malta, and published some years ago by the Camden Society, with an admirable Introduction by my lamented friend, Mr. John Mitchell Kemble. This truly valuable contribution to historical and archæological literature would, in my judgment, be perfect, but for the grave mistake, for which my friend was not responsible, of printing the MS. *in extenso*, the result of which is that certain errors run through the whole volume,—a result but poorly compensated for by the imagined, and only imagined, greater facility with which the accounts may be perused. To well-instructed antiquaries it is as easy to read manuscripts with their con-

tractions as *in extenso*, while to ordinary readers the matter presented in either form is equally obscure and unintelligible.

The return itself consists of a minutely-accurate balance-sheet for every part of the property of the Order in England, with an exact account of income and of outlay in every *bajulia*, bailiwick or manor. Bokeland figures prominently among these; and I will endeavour, by means of the data here presented to us, to give my reader a picture of the scene on which we are now engaged, as it appeared during the former half of the fourteenth century.

The establishment consisted of various buildings, of which three are mentioned, which either required some outlay, or furnished a source of income. First, there was the court or manor-house, but it greatly needed a new roof. The bakehouse also wanted repair, and was in a very ruinous condition. A dovecot, which, singularly enough, appears to have been an appendage to almost every House, and a never-failing source of emolument, is returned as yielding, together with the produce and herbage of the garden, the considerable annual value of x^{s}. The proceeds of both were no doubt disposed of in the neighbourhood, when the supply exceeded the need at home. As that supply would necessarily vary with different years, it is not unlikely, especially as we constantly find this item set down in round numbers throughout the various accounts, that it was computed at a certain annual value, which in some years was exceeded by the actual return, while in others it was deficient. The estate consisted of a demesne of cclxviij acres of arable land, of which cc were valued at xij^{d} an acre; and the remaining lxviij at vij^{d} an acre, amounting together to xij^{li} xvj^{s}. There were also xlij acres of meadow, whereof iij were taken by the Sisters. Of the remaining xxxix the value

of each was ij^{s}, and of the whole lxxviij^{s}. There was also a small church, "una parva ecclesia," appropriated to the Preceptory, of the annual value of xl^{s}. Two mills were an additional source of income, the farm of which, with rent of assize, paid by free tenants to their landlord, amounted to x^{li}. The pleas and perquisites of the manor courts were worth xx^{s}. The *confraria*, or voluntary contribution from the neighbourhood, whether constant or exceptional is uncertain, hardly produced this year the sum of iiij^{xx} marcs.

Halse is returned as a "limb" of this bailiwick. It also had a manor house, but in a state of still greater dilapidation than that of Bokeland. "Destructa" it was, "et multum vastata;" so much so that the proceeds of the manor for a whole year would scarce be sufficient to repair the damage. ccxx acres were attached to it, cc of which were valued at xij^{d}, and xx at x^{d} an acre; in all x^{li} xvj^{s} viij^{d}. There were xxviij acres of pasture, valued at viij^{d} an acre, worth xviij^{s} viij^{d}; xviij acres and a half of meadow, valued at ij^{s} an acre, worth in all, xxxvij^{s}; lij acres of pasture, valued at iiij^{d} an acre, worth in all xvij^{s} viij^{d}; rent of assize, xx^{li} iij^{s} per annum: pleas and perquisites of the manor courts, worth xl^{s}; works and customary services of the native villani, commuted, I presume, into a money-rent, worth xl^{s}; the appropriated rectory, worth xviij marcs; and pasture in moor and wood, worth vj^{s} viij^{d}.

The total amount of receipt and profit from the entire bailiwick, with its limb, was ciiij^{xx}vj marcs, x^{s} iiij^{d}.

We will now turn to the other side of the account, and here we shall have an interesting and necessarily faithful picture of the social life of the House.

The Society consisted, in the first place, of the Preceptor

and five Brethren, after whom were their servants of various kinds, and the stranger guests, whom their rule of hospitality obliged them to entertain. The cost of iiij^{xx}xiiij quarters of wheat, which were made into bread for the House, at iij^{s} a quarter, amounted to xiiij^{li} ij^{s}. For their beer, cxxx quarters of grain, of which lij were of barley, at ij^{s} a quarter, and lxxviij of oat malt, at xx^{d} a quarter, together amounted to xj^{li} xiiij^{s}. Then there were the expenses of the kitchen, an outlay of iiij^{s} a week, or x^{li} viij^{s} a year. The robes, mantles, and other necessaries of the Preceptor and his five Brethren, are set down at x^{li} viij^{s}, allowing j^{li} xiiij^{s} viij^{d} to each, which, as it appears throughout the returns, was the stated and ordinary sum. The stipend of a chaplain, per annum, with a seat at the Preceptor's table, xx^{s}. John le Port, a corrodary, or fellow-commoner, by deed of the chapter, had a seat at the table, valued at xviij^{s}. In the robes of the Preceptor's servants was expended j marc. In the stipend of iiij clerks of the confraria, with commons, iiij^{li}. In the wages of various servants, the cook, baker, steward, porter, woodreeve, chapel-clerk, gardener, swineherd, and carter, lj^{s} viij^{d}, of whom iiij received ij marcs, and each of the rest v^{s}. The stipends of iiij pages amounted to viij^{s}. They spent during the year, in repairs and roofing of their buildings, xl^{s}. The visitation of the Prior of England, whose duty it was to make in person his annual examination, cost during the vj days of his presence the heavy sum of vj^{li}. Lastly there was the annual pension to the Sisters, which we have already noticed, amounting to the charge of xxix marcs. The sum total of all the expenses and payments is cxxv marcs, iij^{s}. And the surplus, to be paid to the Treasury of the Order, figures at lxj marcs, vij^{s} iiij^{d}.

The Preceptor and his Brethren who at this time represented the Hospital at Buckland were Brother John Diluwe, Preceptor, chaplain; Brother Robert Mountfort, chaplain; Brother Adam de Catworth, chaplain; Brother Thomas de Taimeworth, chaplain; Brother Andrew de Shafteworth, sergeant-at-arms; and Brother Henry de Whaddon, sergeant-at-arms and steward of the Sisters. To these we must add John le Port, the corrodary, to whom we have already referred.

The return concludes with an account of the Sisterhood. It describes their House as having been founded by the kings of England, and themselves as wearing the habit of the Hospital, and as commonly amounting to 1 in number. It further states that, by the ordination of their founders, their possessions were managed by themselves. Intent on making a correct report, and with a scarcely disguised feeling of resentment against everything which could tend to diminish the surplus by which his activity and good management could best be exhibited, the Preceptor most ungallantly adds that the Prior and his brethren neither did nor could have or get aught from these ladies, "sed potius onus et gravamen," but rather burden, charge, and grievance; inasmuch by a fixed ordination they were to have a brother of the Priory of England, at the expense of the Prior and the Preceptor of the place, to be their steward, and two brethren for chaplains, and one secular chaplain to serve their church—also, he does not omit to urge, at the expense of the Preceptor. In the same place they had iij carucates of land, of the annual value, in common years, of vj^{li}. Besides this, they are described as being in possession of other property, with some of which we are already acquainted:—at Thele, in Devonshire, one carucate of land, of the value of xl^{s}; at Pruneslee, one

carucate, valued at xl^{s}; at Kynemersdon, one carucate, valued at l^{s}. Of rent of assize, they are stated to own iiij^{xx}x marcs, but it is added that hardly so many as iiij^{xx} are levied. The following churches also are mentioned as appropriated to them: —The church of Pederton, worth l marcs; the church of Kynemersdon, worth xx marcs; and that of Bromfeld, worth x^{li}. All of which, is the conclusion forcibly impressed upon the treasurer, are insufficient to provide for the maintenance of the Sisters and that of their servants, together with the repairs of their buildings, their dress, aud other necessaries, apart from the help of friends and eleemosynary payments.* It is indeed clear that a Community of fifty Nuns, with their servants, although they did not afterwards, or perhaps often, amount to half so many, would be very inadequately maintained out of the funds thus described as being at their disposal, and that they would require the assistance of powerful patrons to enable them to support a mere existence.

From Hidon, a limb of Temple Combe, the same authority informs us that the Sisters of Bokeland had iij marcs per annum for a tenement of theirs there.† This, as we have already noticed, was given them by Prior Thomas L'Archer, who died in 1329.

In a return by Bishop Ralph de Salopia to the King, in the year 1339, of the possessions belonging to the Order of S. John of Jerusalem in the diocese of Bath and Wells, it is stated that the Order has appropriated the Temple Church in Bristol, from which are paid c^{s} a year by the Vicar of that Church for the time being; the Parish Churches of Kymersdon, Durston, Northpederton, Halse, and Brompfelde; an annual pension of xviij^{s} from the

* Hosp. in Engl. pp. 17—20.
† Hosp., p. 205.

Church of Hethfelde ; and an annual pension of ij^{s} from the Church of Netherstaweie. The entry is much frayed, but thus much is certain.*

On the Kalends, the 1st, of October, 1342, at Claverton, Nicholas le Bole, priest, was admitted to the chantry of Sirideston, on the presentation of John de Reigny, Knt.†

At this time a noble property, comprising much of the scene of these annals, together with the feudal rights attached to them, changed its lord. At Westminster, in Easter three weeks, 18 Edward III., 1344, and afterwards in the quinzaine of Holy Trinity, a final concord was made between James de Audeleye and Stephen de Columbars, respecting nine shillings and sixpence of rent, and eight Knights' fees with appurtenances in Spaxton, Gothurst, Hunteworthy, Alfoxton, Bruggewater, Northpederton, Strengeston, Kynemerston, Dunden, Hulleferoun, Overstawey, Lokynton, Luttelton, Wolmerston and Tokirton ; together with the homages and entire services of the Master of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem in England, of the Prior of Berlych, of the Master of the Hospital of S. John Baptist of Bruggewater, and their successors ; of Thomas de Ralegh, Simon de Ffourneaux, William de Sewolle and Lucy his wife, Thomas Ffychet and Isabel his wife, John de Poulet, William de Poulet, Walter de Gouthurst, John Popham and Alice his wife, Vincent Trivet and Joan his wife, Peter Trivet, Thomas de Berlond, Richard de Acton, John Godewyne, Joan widow of John Godewyne, Geoffrey Samuel, Agnes widow of William Samuel, and John son of Thomas Trivet, and their heirs male. The payment for this recognizance by James to Stephen was a sum of one hundred marcs of silver.‡

* Reg. Rad. fol. ccxlvijb. † Rad. Reg. fol. cclxxij.
‡ Ped. Fin. Somers. 15—20 Edw. III., n. 28.

At the same time and place, and between the same parties, another instrument of a similar kind was made, respecting ten messuages, two hundred and eighteen acres of arable land, fifty-five acres of meadow, twenty-four shillings and sixpence of rent, and a rent of one pound of pepper and three woodcocks, and four Knights' fees and a half with appurtenances in Stoke Courcy, Ffytyngton, Canyngton, Strete, Strengeston, Spaxton, Northpedirton, Hoo, Bruggewauter, Tokirton, Overstawey, Bemcombe, Brounelinegerislond, Purymore, atte Weye, Wollavyngton, Pyriton, Kilveton, and Lyllestoke, with the homages and entire services of the aforesaid. The price of this was two hundred marcs of silver.* And on the same day a similar concord was made between the same James de Audeleye and John de Tryvet, respecting nine shillings and sixpence of rent, and eight Knights' fees in the aforesaid places, and with the homages of the persons aforesaid. The payment for this by James to John aforesaid was one hundred marcs of silver.†

These were specimens of fictitious, but the following was one of real litigation. In a cause of Bartholomew de Cherleton, by Kynemersdon, John de Upton, vicar of Kynemersdon, Joan Bartelotes and Edith her sister, and George le Knyght, against Elias de Shortstone, who complained that they had unjustly disseised him of his free tenement in Kynemersdon, which was tried at Somerton, on Saturday next after the feast of S. Peter ad Vincula, 21 Edward III., the 4th of August, 1347, the jury returned a verdict in favour of the former. Another action of the same kind three years afterwards met with a similar result, the jury presenting that William de

* Ped. Fin. Somers. 15—20 Edw. III., n. 30.
† Ped. Fin. Somers. 15—20 Edw. III., n. 31.

Donkeswill, then vicar of Kynemersdon, and John de Ffairford, chaplain, were seised of the property contested, and demised the same to the Bartholomew and John aforesaid.*

On the Ides, the 13th, of December, 1348, John Markwille was admitted to the Church of Kymersdon, on the presentation of Philip de Thame, Prior of S. John of Jerusalem in England.†

William Redmor was presented to the Church of Hethfeld by Philip de Thame, Prior of S. John of Jerusalem in England, on the 4th of February, 1348-9.‡ It would appear that he did not long retain his benefice—he was probably among the victims of the terrible pestilence which visited and almost depopulated the country in the summer and early autumn of the same year—for John de Donne, or Doune, Rector of the Church of Hethfeld, presented Robert atte Crosse, priest, to the Church of Fydyngton on the 25th of June, 1354. The institution is dated at Wylescomb, the 17th of the following month.§

I shall not here pursue the succession of the various Incumbents of these two benefices, as a complete list of them, so far as they are known to me, will be furnished at a subsequent page.

On the III. Id., the 13th, of March, 1348-9, John Crispyn, priest, was admitted to the chapel of Scyredeston, on the presentation of John de Reigny.‖

On the IIII. Id., the 10th, of August, 1349, Richard Schawman, priest, was admitted to the chapel of Schiredeston, on the presentation of the same John de Regny.¶

* Plac. Q. W. 21 Edw. III., N 2 22 3. m. 39; & 24 Edw. III., N 2 23 6. m. 35 dors.

† Reg. Rad. fol. cccxxviij.

‡ Reg. Rad. fol. cccxxxvjb.

§ Hyll Cartulary, pp. 52, 53.

‖ Reg. Rad. fol. cccxxxviijb.

¶ Reg. Rad. fol. ccclijb.

On the X. Kal. Dec., the 22nd of November, 1349, Bishop Ralph de Salopia granted permission to Robert Roser, chaplain of Nyuton, to celebrate on three days in the week at Mihelchurche, to the feast of Christmas next ensuing, although he should have previously celebrated mass in the church of Nyuton aforesaid; and, in case the said Robert was ill or otherwise hindered, the Bishop licenced John, the chaplain of Durston, to supply his place.*

On the III. Non., the 5th, of March, 1349-50, the Bishop ordained as his proctors the Rector of Bradeford, in the deanery of Taunton; and, in the deanery of Bridgwater, the Rector of Spaxton and the Vicar of Northpederton.†

At Westminster, in the octaves of the Holy Trinity, 24 Edward III., 1350, a final concord was passed between John de Donne, parson of Hethfeld, and John Sayllard, and Thomas Cunduyt, touching six messuages, two carucates of arable land, thirty acres of meadow, thirty acres of pasture, thirty acres of wood, thirty acres of moor, and thirteen shillings of rent, in Lydeard S. Laurence. They gave to the aforesaid Thomas one hundred marcs of silver.‡

In the 25th year of Edward III., the Prioress of Boklond was compelled to sue the Sheriff of Hereford for the pension which as we have seen was granted to her House so early as the reign of King Henry III. It appears by the record of the transaction, which I have found among the Pleas of the Exchequer for that year, that this pension, amounting to the sum of vj^{li} xvj^{s} xj^{d} per annum, had been always allowed to the Sheriffs for the time being, and

* Reg. Rad. fol. cccIv.
† Reg. Rad. fol. cccIvj.
‡ Ped. Fin. Som. 21—28 Edw. III., n. 38.

ought always so to be, as was contained in those officers' accounts entered on the Great Roll of the former and on those of all previous years. Thomas de Aston, however, the Sheriff of Hereford for that year, refused to make the legal and customary payment, and the Prioress took the grievance into the King's Court. The judgment was alike speedy and complete. An inhibition was issued against him, present in the court on the 2nd of October on the matter of his account connected with his office of Sheriff for the 25th year of the King, that he should not leave it until he had satisfied the Prioress touching the money aforesaid due to her and in arrear for that year, on peril, &c. He thought proper to disobey the injunction, by leaving the court without licence, and without satisfaction of the Prioress, in contempt of the King. A precept was forthwith issued to the Coroner of the county to attach the person of the Sheriff aforesaid, to receive judgment on the morrow of S. Hilary, touching the contempt aforesaid and the satisfaction of the Prioress. On the 3rd of July, 1352, when the case came on, the Prioress appeared in court by her attorney William de Wilford, and acknowledged herself satisfied of the money aforesaid, which had been paid in the interval. Afterwards, on the 9th of the October next following, the offending Sheriff then present in court was committed to the Fflete prison for the transgression aforesaid, and forthwith paid for his contempt a fine of ten shillings, under colour of which he was released from durance.* This is by no means a solitary instance of trouble in the matter of the Hereford pension, as will appear in the sequel.

* Plac. de Scacc. 26 Edw. III., m. 94.

Another defaulter was similarly visited with the vengeance of the law. The annual pension of xx^{s} due from the church of Bekyngton was the subject of dispute, and a writ was addressed for its recovery to John de Werdyr, the parson, dated at Westminster, the 30th of November, 25 Edward III., 1351. On the III. Kal. Jan., the 30th of December, he replied and promised to pay. Failing to comply, another writ was issued, bearing date the 12th of July, 1353. To a precept addressed to the Sheriff to distrain of his goods and chattels for the arrears of three years then due, it was returned that the said John de Werdyr was beneficed in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, and that he had no lay fee. A mandate was, accordingly, in Trinity Term, 1353, forwarded to the Bishop to sequester the amount from the benefice of the debtor, and to pay the same into court in the octaves of S. Michael, for satisfaction of the Prior's demand.* This was followed three months afterwards by a letter from the Prior of the Hospital in England to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, announcing the settlement of the claim, and soliciting the removal of the sequestration. I give the epistle in exact translation, and, as it is an interesting specimen of the French of that day, I have placed the original in the Appendix.

"Very dear Sire, and Reverend Father in God. Whereas we have agreed with the Parson of Bekyngton in right of the plea which was between us in the Court of our Lord the King before his Justices of the Common Bench, for the twenty shillings of one annuity due to our Sisters of Bokeland, and hereupon the said Parson hath the acquittance of our said Sisters, as appeareth, of all their arrears of the said annuity, which acquittance we

* Reg. Rad. ff. cccIxxxxvij, cccIxxxxix, ccccxxijb, ccccxxiiij. Plac. de Banco, Trin. 27 Edw. III., m. ccxviij dors.

have, acceptable, against us—We pray, Sire, that the sequestration or other execution, if any there be in this behalf, against the said Parson, by your reverend Fatherhood commanded, it may please you to release, and the said Parson worthily to deliver, for love of us. May God, very dear Sire, deign to you a good and long life. Written at London the xij day of October, By your Prior of the Hospital in England.

To the Right Honourable Lord and Reverend Father in God, the Bishop of Bath and Wells."*

This letter, as it would appear from a note in the Register, was received by the Bishop on the 22nd of October, 1353.

In Trinity Term, 27 Edward III., 1353, the Prior of Tanton brought by his attorney an action for trespass against Stephen Moihoun and Walter Shammel, parson of the church of Tolond. They did not present themselves in obedience to the summons, and a writ was issued to the Sheriff to attach them. That officer returned that "non sunt inventi," whereupon a further writ was issued to arrest them and present them in the Court of King's Bench in Michaelmas quinzaine.† At that time also they were not forth coming, and another writ was issued with a similar result.‡

At Westminster, in Michaelmas quinzaine, 29 Edward III., 1355, and afterwards, in the octaves of the Holy Trinity, 30 Edward III., 1356, a final concord was passed between John Payn and Margary his wife, and Reginald, vicar of Northpederton, and Robert de Weston, chaplain, touching a moiety of the manor of West Neuton.§ A

* Reg. Rad. fol. ccccxxiiij. Appendix, No. XIX.
† Plac. Coram Rege. Trin. 27 Edw. III., m. xlj. dors.
‡ Mich. m. xlj. § Ped. Fin. Somers. 29—38 Edw. III., n. 16.

similar transaction took place between the same parties, concerning lands in Northpederton, at Westminster, in the octaves of S. Hilary, 31 Edward III., 1357-8.*

John Donne, parson of Hethfelde, and William Baggeheye were parties in the sale to William Torel of the manor of Preston Torel, at Westminster, in the octaves of S. Hilary, 30 Edward III., 1356-7.†

At Westminster, in the octaves of the Holy Trinity, 32 Edward III., 1358, a final concord was passed between John Torny, of Hardyngton, and John Markwelle, vicar of Kynemersdon, touching the manor of Hardyngton, and lands in Hardyngton and Duresleye, with succession in male tail to John Torny and his heirs.‡

John de Reygny and Hugh atte Putte recovered seisin of a messuage and other property in Northpederton, against Reginald, vicar of Northpederton, and Robert de Weston, chaplain, and others, at Somerton, on Monday next after the feast of S. Peter ad Vincula, 33 Edward III., the 5th of August, 1359.§

John Donne, parson of the church of Hethfeld, whose name has been repeatedly before us, and others, were parties in a suit against Thomas Moyhoun, who complained of being unjustly disseised of his free tenement in Hethfeld. The cause was tried at Ivelchestre, on Friday next before the feast of S. Laurence, 39 Edward III., the 31st of January, 1364-5, and the jury returned a verdict in the parson's favour.‖

* Ped. Fin. Somers. 29—38 Edw. III., n. 29. † Ib. n. 13.

‡ Ped. Fin. Somers. 29—38 Edw. III., n. 33.

§ Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 33 Edw. III. $\left.\begin{matrix} N \\ 2 \\ 26 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 4. m. 5.

‖ Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 36 Edw. III., $\left.\begin{matrix} N \\ 2 \\ 26 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 6. m. 27 ;

et 39 Edw. III., $\left.\begin{matrix} N \\ 2 \\ 27 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 4. m. 16 dors.

We are here introduced to another hitherto unnoticed Superior of the House. The Prior of the Hospital in England, and Mary, Prioress of S. John Baptist of Boklond, were parties in a plea of assize of novel disseisin against William Castelyate and Isabel his wife, and were excused from attendance at the assizes at Yevelchester, on Tuesday next after the feast of S. Peter ad vincula, 45 Edward III., the 5th of August, 1371.*

The reader will remember that Roger Arundell, sometime lord of the manor of Halse, gave that manor to the Prior of S. John of Jerusalem in England. We subsequently learn that the grant was made on condition that he and his successors should find and maintain a chapel in Halse, and a chaplain to celebrate Divine Service for ever in the same for the souls of the aforesaid Roger, his predecessors, and all the faithful departed. These duties, as it appears, had been neglected for a number of years, and the gift became the subject of legal investigation. An inquest was held at Taunton, before Adam atte More, the King's Escheator, on Wednesday, in the third week in Lent, the 8th of March, 48 Edward III., 1374; and the jurors, Bartholomew Baghey, Adam Londe, Robert Ladell, Walter Cherl, Richard Hokeday, John Holm, Benedict Fflamesy, Robert Hewere, John Garland, Thomas Clyve, Gilbert Stenes, and Robert Skilgate, found the facts aforesaid, and that the manor was of the annual value in all issues of xx^{li}, and was held of the King in chief, as of his manor of Hampstede Mareschall, by knight service. The same jury found that Roger Torell had given to the Rector of the Church of Mulverton, without licence of the

* Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 45 Edw. III. $\left.\begin{matrix} N \\ 2 \\ 27 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 7. m. 84 dors.

King, twenty acres of arable land, called Mynsterlond in Mulverton, to find a chaplain who should celebrate Divine Service three days in every week in the chapel of Torelles-preston ; and that the land was held of the King in chief, by knight service, and was worth in all issues xvj^{s} per annum. A further writ of "certiorari" in respect of both of these donations was issued, dated at Westminster, the 3rd of July, 1 Henry IV., 1400.*

In the account of Stephen de Pemple, Dean of Wells, of the names and payments of beneficed and unbeneficed clergy of the Diocese of Bath and Wells, the former taxed for a subsidy at xij^{d}, and the latter at iiij^{d}, in the 51st year of Edward III., 1377, Edward, vicar of Kynemersdon, is returned as paying the former sum, and Roger atte Noneue, chaplain there, the latter.†

In the third year of Richard II., 1380, the Abbat of Athelneye was collector of a subsidy from the clergy of the diocese, of xvj^{d} of each marc of the value of all benefices. The vicarage of Perton is returned in his account as taxed at x marcs and a half, and the church of Elleworthy at vj marcs and a half. Among the benefices valued *de novo* the church of Bromfelde is taxed at xl^{s} ; the church of Durston at lx^{s} ; the church of Pederton at x marcs ; the vicarage of Halse at xl^{s} ; the church of the same at iiij marcs ; the church of Hethfeld at iiij marcs ; and the church of Tholond at xl^{s}. Among the *temporalia*, the Prior of Tanton is returned as possessed of property in Northpedirton taxed at xx^{s}, and in Toulonde taxed at xxxj^{s} iij^{d}.‡

The Prior of the Hospital in England was party in a plea of novel disseisin against John Baylleven, vicar of

* Inq. ad q.d. 1 Hen. IV., n. 22.

† Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{1}$, m. 4.

‡ Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{4}$.

Pedirton, and others, and was excused from attendance at the assizes at Yevelchestre, on Thursday in the first week of Lent, 4 Richard II., the 8th of March, 1381.*

We must now pass to the year 1387. At this time the Prioress and Sisters of Boclaund obtained from King Richard II., by a fine of thirteen shillings and four pence, another charter of "inspeximus," confirmation, and ratification of their ancient grant from Henry III., of fuel from the park of Perton. The letters patent were dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 25th of June, 1387.†

A final concord was made at Westminster, in the octaves of S. John Baptist, 15 Richard II., 1391, between William Ffrebody and Clemence his wife, querents, and John Hayward, chaplain, deforciant, touching twenty-one messuages, sixty acres of arable land, sixteen and a half acres of meadow, and three acres of gorse in Northneweton and La Morelond, Durston, Northpederton, Hunteworthy, and Crosse by Bokelond.‡

At Westminster, in Easter three weeks, 17 Richard II., 1394, a final concord was passed between John Coleford, vicar of Northpederton, and Nicholas Person, chaplain, querents, and Richard Wely and Christina his wife, deforciants, touching lands in Northpederton, Morelond, Nywehous, Ernesham, Brokewall, Rydon, and Kewellewere. The former gave the latter twenty pounds.§ The same John and Nicholas were parties in a similar purchase from Nicholas Streme and Alice his wife, of lands in Northpederton, for ten marcs of silver, at Westminster, on the morrow of the feast of the Purification of Blessed Mary, 20 Richard II., the 3rd of February, 1396-7.‖

* Plac. Quo War. Div. Com. 4 Ric. II. $\left.\begin{matrix} N \\ 2 \\ 29 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 5. m. 20.

† Pat. 11 Ric. II., p. 1, m. 36. ‡ Ped. Fin. 12—20 Ric. II., n. 22.
§ Ped. Fin. Somer. 12—20 Ric. II., n. 64. ‖ Ib. n. 90.

At an Inquisition taken at Yvelchestre, on Monday next before the feast of S. Kalixtus, Pope, 22 Richard II., 1398, before Thomas Bathe, the King's Escheator, the jury found that Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, was seised at the time of his death, among other possessions, of one knight's fee in Thornefacon, near Taunton ; two knights' fees in Buclond and Chilton, held by the Prior of S. John of Jerusalem, as of the honor of Wyggemor; two knights' fees held by the Abbat of Clyve, as of the honor of Bolyngbrok ; the third turn of the church of Hankerugge, of the extent of x^{li}; and the advowson of the Free Chapel of Nywton Plecy, of the extent of six marcs. The earl died on the feast of S. Margaret, the 20th of July, before the date of the inquest.*

In a schedule of the names of the stipendiary clergy in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, with the amount of their stipends, of the time, as appears by the character of the MS., of Richard II., Henry Pope occurs as chaplain of Northpederton, with a stipend of c^{s}; John Moryet, as chaplain there, with one of vij marcs; and Henry Clerk, as chaplain there, with one of c^{s}.†

Thomas Hernyngston was admitted to the church of Halse, void by the resignation of John Brent, on the 4th of December, 1401 ;‡ and William Pateryk to Kynmersdon, on the 18th of February, 1401-2.§

In reply to a writ of Henry, Bishop of Bath and Wells, dated at Ystilworth, the 18th of July, 1404, commanding the collection of a subsidy of ij^{s} in the pound, of all non-taxed benefices above the value of c^{s} a year, granted to

* Inq. p.m. 22 Ric. II., n. 34.

† Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{8}$.

‡ Reg. Bowet, fol. iijb.

§ Reg. Bowet, fol. xij.

the King in the 5th year of his reign, the Prior of Bruton, collector of the subsidy, returned the vicarage of Halse, as of the value of cvj^{s} viij^{d}, taxed in x^{s} viij^{d}; and the church of Hethfeld, as of similar value and taxed in the same amount.*

On the 28th of April, 1405, another charter of "inspeximus" and ratification was granted to the Prioress and Sisters, on the payment of one marc, in behalf of their ancient privilege. The letters patent on this occasion are particularly valuable, inasmuch as they furnish us with the name of the Prioress of the House, and thus make a still further addition to our list of hitherto unnoted Superiors. The lady in question was named Alice,—"Alicie nunc Priorisse"—but of what family and from whom descended all human record has disappeared. The document is dated, witness the King, at Westminster, on the day and year above mentioned.†

Among the contributors to a subsidy of vj^{s} viij^{d} granted by the convocation of the Clergy to King Henry IV., in the 7th year of his reign, were Thomas Heryngston, vicar of Halse; and William Moggregg, rector of Hethfeld. The letter of Henry, Bishop of Bath and Wells, to John, Abbat of Clive, authorizing him to collect the same, bears date the 22nd of June, 1406.‡

Thomas Passewar, rector of Charles, in the diocese of Exeter, was admitted to Halse, by exchange with Thomas Hernyngeston aforesaid, on the 16th of October, 1407.§

The following year, on the 14th of November, 1408, a writ of privy seal was issued, which furnishes us with a considerable amount of information as to the legal

* Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{14}$. † Pat. 6 Hen. IV., p. 2, m. 28.

‡ Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{20}$. § Reg. Bowet, fol. xlv.

position of the Sisters. It is clear, from the very terms of their constitution, that they were necessarily subject to the Prior at Clerkenwell in no inconsiderable degree. Bracton, indeed, specially cites them as instances of legal inability of acting apart from the Prior and Head of their Order.* It appears that the Sisters had represented to the King the ancient grant which had been, as we have seen, conceded to them so early as the reign of Henry III., and the further permission accorded of removing their firewood, for greater convenience, between the Feast of Easter and that of S. Peter ad vincula. It is added, though hardly as it would seem borne out by the facts, that these concessions had been enjoyed by them from that time to the present without let or hindrance either from the King or the custodians of the park. The present keeper, however, had resisted their demand on the ground that they were but officials, "obedienciarie," of the Prior of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem in England, and therefore not competent to accept the grant in their own persons. The Prioress and her Sisters, accordingly, petitioned the King to interfere in their behalf and to provide a remedy. This result it is the intention of the writ to effect. The King, taking it into his royal consideration that the Prioress and Sisters would instantly and devoutly pray for the health of himself and his dearest consort Joan during their lives, and for their souls after their deaths, and for the King's dearest consort Mary, deceased, granted their request, by conveying to Walter Grendon, Prior of the Hospital of S. John, and his successors, the gift already conceded, so that the same might be to the use and profit of the Prioress and Sisters of Bucland. Various ambiguities also in the original charter

* De legibus, lib. v. tr. v. c. 18, de exceptionibus.

were now removed, and the intention of the royal donor made more conspicuous. Perton is changed to Pederton. In the previous instruments they were to take their firewood "de spinis, alno, et arabili:" the grant now ran "videlicet thorn, aller, mapel, et hasell." It was also set forth that each cartload should consist of as much firewood as six horses could draw, and that the Prior and his successors and servants should fall, cut up and carry away at their will the amount granted to them every year, for the fuel of the said Prioress and Sisters, from the Feast of the Annunciation to the Feast of All Saints, without disturbance, hindrance, or grievance from the King, his heirs, the keeper of the park, or any other official or servant whomsoever. The writ was dated at Westminster, on the day aforesaid, the 14th of November, 10 Henry IV., 1408.*

John Yong, son of Richard Yong, was tried at the Gaol Delivery held at Yevelchestre, on Thursday next after the feast of S. Margaret, Virgin, 11 Henry IV., the 24th of July, 1410, for having on the night of Friday in Easter week, 11 Henry IV., the 28th of the previous March, at Coggelode, feloniously assaulted Alice the wife of Thomas Coggelode, and taken and carried off goods and chattels of Thomas aforesaid, to wit woollen and linen cloths, to the value of one hundred shillings; and further, for having on the Saturday following at Coggelode feloniously attempted to kill the said Thomas. The jury, however, returned on oath a favourable verdict, and the prisoner was acquitted.†

It was a frequent custom in mediæval times, on the death of a Superior, for the House with which he had

* Pat. 10 Hen. IV., p. 1, m. 19. MS. in Coll. Armor. L. 17, f. 156b. Appendix, No. XX.

† Del. Gaol. Div. Com. 11 Hen. IV., Nos. 8 and 10.

been connected to issue a licence to some layman, authorizing him to carry an Obituary Roll to other Monasteries, in order to procure for the soul of the deceased the prayers of the Communities visited, with the promise of a similar favour whenever circumstances should arise to require it. These "Breviatores," or Roll-bearers, presented themselves consecutively at the various Monasteries throughout England on their mission of reciprocal charity, authenticated by the exhibition of their licence, which limited the bearer to a certain time for the performance of his duty, and so prevented the object of his journey from assuming the character of a mere livelihood. The licence at the same time solicited for the bearer the kindly consideration of the Houses visited and the ordinary requirements of travellers, and was given up when the journey was completed. The name of each Monastery successively arrived at was inscribed by one of its members, supposed to have been in most cases the Precentor, who in one of the Rolls presently referred to has appended the initials of his name and office. It would appear that the same itinerant was not unfrequently the bearer of similar rolls from various Monasteries at once; and we may feel assured, notwithstanding some disparaging statements from a few professed satirists, that, apart from the ostensible object of his mission, which would be invested with a religious charm in the eyes of multitudes, he could hardly fail to be a welcome visitor to many a Community, for the news that he could bring to localities far removed from ordinary resort, and the "marvellous tales" of which he had doubtless a goodly store. Few of the curious Rolls thus carried through mediæval England have been transmitted to our own time; and for our knowledge of the most complete and interesting, still preserved in the Treasury of the Dean

and Chapter of Durham, we are indebted to the Surtees Society, to which the gratitude of all archæologists is eminently due for its many and admirable publications. One of these, a Petition for Suffrages in behalf of Walter Skyrlaw, Bishop successively of Coventry and Lichfield, Bath and Wells, and Durham, who died in 1416, was carried shortly after that event to the following Somersetshire Monasteries—the route of the bearer is easily traceable:—Keymsham, several Houses in Bristoll, Glastonbury, the Preaching Friars of Ivelcestre, Athelneye, Montacute, Muchelnye, "the Church of Blessed Mary and S. John the Baptist of the Sisters of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem at Bokeland," Tanton, Clyve, and Berliche.* I may add that the Buckland entry is written in a style of penmanship of more than ordinary excellence.

King Henry V. confirmed the grant of his father to William Hilles, Prior of S. John, in behalf of the Prioress and Sisters, on the payment of half a marc, witness John, duke of Bedford, custodian of England, at Westminster, on the 8th of February, 1418-9.†

Of this also a confirmation was granted, by writ of privy seal, by King Henry VI., witness the King, at Westminster, on the 5th of February, 1422-3.‡

The chantry of Newton Playceye has already been the means of supplying us with very interesting information. An inquisition relating to a vacancy in that chantry, taken in the parish church of Bruggewater, in the year 1418, has already been before us (pp. 31, 32). Another on a similar occasion was held in the parish church of Leng, on the 4th of July, 1425; and the jurors presented, among other

* Durham Obit. Rolls. Surtees Soc. vol. XXXI, p. 59.
† Pat. 6 Hen. V., m. 10.
‡ Pat. 1 Hen. VI., p. 5, m. 5.

matters, that the Prioress and Convent of Bokelond had a right to receive every year from a certain field called Colverfeld, in Newton, one cart-full of whatever kind of grain was growing in the same, by the name of a portion from the aforesaid chantry, according to a composition which was reported to the said jurors by certain trustworthy men.*

In a return of the annual value of non-taxed benefices, to a call for a subsidy on all ecclesiastical incomes, in June, 1426, the church of Hethefeld was valued at xl^{s}, Halse at x^{li}, the vicarage of the same at vj^{li}, and Durston at vj^{li}.†

In another return to a further demand for the Council of Basle, as the first mandate had been insufficiently executed, dated the last day of December, 1432, among the benefices from which the subsidy should be levied is that of Hals, valued at x^{li}.‡ And the same value is returned in a certificate in answer to a writ for the King's disme, dated the 16th of October, 1433.§

Another ratification and confirmation of the ancient grant, on the payment of half a marc, was made to Robert Botell, Prior of the Hospital, witness the King, at Westminster, on the 10th of February, 1443-4.‖

In answer to a mandate for a subsidy against the Saracens and Turks, dated at Wells, the last day but one of April, 1445, the church of Hethfeld is returned as taxed in vij^{d} ob., and that of Halssh in x^{d}.¶

Soon after this the Sisters were involved in a new trouble. In the ordination of the vicarage of Northpetherton, it had been distinctly specified that the Prioress and Convent of Bocland should receive from the vicar four marcs a year.

* Reg. Stafford, fol. iijb.
† Reg. Stafford, ff. viijb, ix.
‡ Reg. Staff. ff. lxxxiij, lxxxiijb.
§ Reg. Staff. ff. lxxxxj, lxxxxjb.
‖ Pat. 22 Hen. VI., p. 2, m. 22.
¶ Reg. Bekynton, ff. xxix, xxixb.

In the year 1447 Robert Noris, the vicar, disputed this payment, and the Sisters had to call in the aid of their Diocesan to compel his fulfilment of the obligation. Bishop Bekynton issued from Dogmersfeld a commission, dated the 22nd of April, 1447, addressed to John Stokys, Commissary General, and William North, LL.B., with full power together and singly to enquire into the justice of the Sisters' claim to this ancient pension, and to hear, examine and canonically decide upon the facts of the case.*

In a certificate of the Archdeacon of Taunton to the Bishop of the names of the presbyters of his archdeaconry, dated at Taunton, the 20th of January, 1449-50, Robert Cooke occurs as "capellanus annuellarius" of Bokeland ;† William Nicoll, as "capellanus parochialis" of Driston;‡ John Hoyges, as "capellanus parochialis," and Peter as "capellanus annuellarius," of Bromfeld.§

In the return to the writ for a subsidy of one whole tenth of all benefices and ecclesiastical possessions whatsoever, to be paid, the first moiety at the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, MCCCCLII, and the last at the same feast in the year following, the vicarage of Pederton is taxed at x marcs and a half, and the Church of Elleworth at vj marcs and a half. The Bishop's letter to the Abbat and Convent of Glastonbury, authorizing the collection, is dated the 22nd of August, 1450.‖

The Prioress of Buklande is credited with the sum of vj^{li} xvj^{s} xj^{d}, her customary pension, in the original account of William Catesby, Knt., late Sheriff of the County of

* Reg. Bekynton, fol. lixb. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 61.
† Reg. Bek. fol. cvb. ‡ Reg. Bek. fol. cvj.
§ Reg. Bek. ib. ‖ Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{96}$

Hereford, from Michaelmas, 37 Henry VI., 1458, to the same feast in the year following, still preserved among the Miscellanea of the Exchequer of Receipt.*

It would appear, although we know very little either of the process or the results, that several valuations of the property were made during the last half of the fifteenth century, especially in 1460 and 1493. We shall presently have before us, however, a most valuable and complete document of a similar kind, and of so near a period to that of the returns alluded to as to make their loss a matter of less importance.†

In a return of clergy of the Archdeaconry of Taunton, from whom a subsidy was not levied, dated at Banwell, the 3rd of September, 1463, occurs John Jacob, "cap. paroch." of Boklande.‡

An Obituary Roll, of the class described at an earlier page, in behalf of William Ebchestre and John Burnby, Priors of Durham, the former of whom died in 1456, and the latter in 1468, was carried to various Monasteries in Somersetshire, soon after the latter date, in the following order :—Several Houses in Bristoll, Henton, Mechelnye, Athelney, "the House or Hospital of S. John the Baptist of Bokelonde," the Friars Minors of Brygwalter, Canyngton, Tauntun, and Beerlinch. On his homeward journey, as it would appear, the bearer, after visiting some of the Devonshire Monasteries, returned by way of Clive, Montacute, and the House of the Preaching Friars of Evelcestre.§ The Buckland title is here also written in a superior style of penmanship.

* Misc. Exch. Rec. $\frac{2}{31}$.

† Comput. 38 Hen. VI. 13092. Comput. 8 Hen. VII. 1232. Add. MS. B.M. 21,324, ff. 12b, 28b.

‡ Reg. Bek. fol. cclxxxxb.

§ Durham Obit. Rolls. Surtees Soc. vol. XXXI, pp 41, 42.

By a composition dated the viijth of May, MCCCCLXVI, between the Prioress of Buckland and Robert Norris, vicar of Northepetherton, the former agreed to deliver to the latter every year six waggon loads of hay.* It is not improbable, that, in the true spirit of mediæval impartiality, the difference which was lately before us was thus finally adjusted,—the Vicar paying in money the pension demanded, and the Convent lightening the burden by the reciprocal donation of the land produce.

At a General Ordination, in the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the cloister at Wells, by Thomas Bennett, Bp. Suffragan, on the 18th of December, 1484, Leonard Justyne, of Buclonde Monialium, was ordained acolyte.†

Another hitherto unnoticed Prioress is now to be introduced to the reader, as a successful plaintiff in a cause of manifest and vexatious wrong. Elizabeth, Prioress of the House of Buklond, appeared before the Barons of the Exchequer on the 1st of June, in Easter Term, at Westminster, 7 Henry VII., 1492, by Thomas Hobson, her attorney, and complained by bill against Sir Thomas Monyngton, Knt., late Sheriff of the County of Hereford, present in the court the same day on the matter of his account by Thomas Caundyssh, his attorney, for that he owed and unjustly detained the sum of vj^{li} xvj^{s} xj^{d} due to the Prioress in right of her Monastery. It was argued that she and her predecessors had received this sum yearly from the issues of the said County from time immemorial; that she had taken it the previous year by the hands of Sir Richard Delabere, Knt., the late Sheriff, and also before that, from his predecessors the Sheriffs for the time being; that these officers were accountable for the said

* Ministers' Accounts, 30—31 Hen. VIII. No. 128.
† Reg Stillington, ad fin.

payments, which were made to her on her presentation of letters of acquittance, without brief or warrant; that she had applied for payment on the 21st of October, 7 Henry VII., 1491, at Westminster, and had offered her letters of acquittance for the same; but, that, although she had repeatedly demanded payment, the Sheriff had not yet paid the money, to her loss and damage of a hundred shillings. To all this the Sheriff by his attorney made no reply in bar and exclusion of the action of the said Prioress, who on her part prayed for judgment against him, and the payment of her debt, together with the damages. Judgment was hereupon given for the plaintiff, with order for recovery of her debt against Monyngton, and damages both for unjust detention of the debt aforesaid, and for her costs, charges, and expenses connected with her suit, which were taxed by the judges at forty shillings, amounting in all to the sum of viij^{li} xvj^{s} xj^{d}.*

For eight years nothing seems to have transpired of which a record is preserved for us; but I have found some documents which belong to the commencement of the following century, which give us an excellent insight into the condition of the House at that period.

I should premise, however, to keep to the chronological order as far as possible, that, at a Chapter holden at Melchborne on the 9th November, 1500,—present, the Lord Prior, John Kendall; Br. Thomas Grene, Baily of Eagle; Br. Thomas Newport, Receiver; Br. Robert Danyel, Preceptor of Swynfelde; Br. Adam Chetwod, Preceptor of Badisford and Dynglay; Br. John Tonge, Preceptor of Ribston; and Br. John Bowthe, Preceptor of Quenyngton—there was granted to Alexander Verney, Chaplain, a chamber suitable to his rank in the manor of

* Plac. de Scacc. Pasc. 7 Hen. VII., m. 31 dors.

Bodmescomb in the county of Devon, with reasonable fuel for the said chamber to be taken from the underwood of that manor, eight marcs sterling a year by the name of his stipend, and for food and raiment, during his life, from the date of the presents, to be received through the hands of the Preceptor of Bucland, or of the farmer in charge for the time being. The said Alexander obliged himself to celebrate Divine Service in the Chapel of Bodmescomb as long as his bodily ability lasted so to do. If, from old age or infirmity, he became unable to celebrate, his chamber and allowances were still to be continued to him. If, however, whilst able to celebrate, he neglected his duty, and, without licence from the Prior or farmer aforesaid, wilfully omitted to perform it, the present grant was to be reckoned altogether null and void. The seals of both parties were affixed to the agreement, which was dated as above.*

This manor of Bodmescomb, which, together with Cove, is stated in the next paragraph to be an appurtenance of the Preceptory of Buclande, is situated near Tiverton. It figures in the return of Prior Philip de Thame, in 1338, as a separate "bajulia," the total amount of receipt and profit whereof, with its "limb," amounted to lxxv marcs xj^{s}, and of expenses and payments xxxiij marcs iij^{s} ij^{d}, leaving for the Treasury xlij marcs vij^{s} x^{d}. The officers were Brother William de Huntyngdon, Preceptor, Serjeant; and Brother John de Merston, Serjeant.†

In an "Assembly" holden in the House of Clerkenwel, on the 20th of January, 1500-1, at which were present the Lord Prior, Br. John Kendal; Br. Henry Hawley, Preceptor of Willughton; Br. Robert Pek, Preceptor of Badislay and Mayne; Br. Robert Dauson, Preceptor of

* MS. Land. 200, f. lxxixb.
† Hosp. in England, pp 13, 14.

Halston and Templecomb; Br. Thomas Newport, Preceptor of Newland; Br. Robert Danyel, Preceptor of Swynfeld; Br. Adam Chetwod, Preceptor of Badisford and Dynglay; Br. John Tonge, Preceptor of Ribston, Mount S. John, and Carbrok: Br. Jo. Bowth, Preceptor of Quenyngton; and Br. William Darel, Preceptor of Yeuelay and Barowe: a lease was granted to John Vernay, of Ffarefelde, in the county of Somerset, esquire, of the Preceptory of Buclande Prior's, in the county of Somerset, with the manors of Bodmescomb and Cove, in the county of Devon, to the said Preceptory appertaining; and all and singular other demesne lands and tenements, meadows, uncultivated places, pastures, rents, services, contributions, in the counties of Somerset and Devon, courts with their profits, tithes, oblations, goods and chattels of felons and vagabonds, and all other liberties, emoluments, rights and advantages whatsoever; save and except woods and underwoods, advowsons of churches, guardianships, disposals in marriage, and admission fines, which were wholly reserved. The lease was to run from the feast of the Nativity of S. John the Baptist next coming, to the end and term of thirty years next following and fully completed; at a yearly rent, to be paid into the Treasury at Clerkenwell, of ninety three pounds, six shillings, and eight pence sterling, payable during the term in equal portions at the feasts of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of S. Barnabas the Apostle. Besides this, the following stipulations (to us the far more interesting part of the transaction) were directed to be most strictly observed. The aforesaid farmer and his assigns were to provide due and honest hospitality in the said Preceptory, at their own expence; and also, at their own expence, to find, according to the ancient custom, five chaplains; two of whom, Chaplains of the Cross, or

two others whom the Prior or his successors should depute, should be in the Church of the Sisters at Buclande, one in the Chapel of the Preceptory there, one at Bodmescombe, and one at Durston, for the continual celebration of Divine Service during the term. They were also to find maintenance and a chamber for one Chaplain of the Prioress, and maintenance for the steward of her House and for his servant, with two cartloads of hay, every year during the term. They were to give to Alexander Vernay, Chaplain of Bodmescombe, whose appointment we have already noticed, a chamber with his fuel there, and eight marcs sterling by name of stipend, and for his food and raiment, according to the tenor of the agreement under their common seal, previously made with him for the term of his life. Besides this they were to pay to the Prioress and Convent yearly for their customary pension the sum of xxij^{li}, and to the steward of the court pertaining to the said Preceptory his regular salary. Still further, they were to bear at their own expence all other ordinary and extraordinary burdens incumbent on the said Preceptory and to be imposed thereon until the end of the term, the responsions and aids to the common treasury at Rhodes excepted. Moreover they were to keep the houses, buildings, walls, enclosures, hedges, &c., in good repair during the term, and to return them at the end thereof in as good a state as they received them. If any of the buildings should become ruinous and fall to the ground during the term, the Prior and his successors were to rebuild them at their own expence, and the farmer and his assigns were afterwards at their expence to repair and maintain them so rebuilt during the term. They were to find provision and attendance for three or four days and so many nights for the servants of the Prior and his successors with five or

six horses coming twice a year on visitation to the said Preceptory, or for holding courts there, or renewing rentals, &c. Further, the aforesaid farmer and his assigns were to have housebote, ffyrebote, ploughbote, cartbote, hedgebote, harobote, and ffoldebote, in and of the woods and underwoods of the said Preceptory, by reasonable assignment and without waste. It was stipulated also that the Prior and his successors and their servants were to visit the said Preceptory whenever they pleased, and to hold courts and make leases; the farmer and his assigns to have the profits of the said courts, and to deliver at the end of the term all the rolls of the courts, and leases, old and new, which should come to their hands during the term aforesaid. The farmer and his assigns were not to re-lease their status in the Preceptory to any other holder without the licence of the Prior and his successors. If the rent were in arrear, in part or in all, for two months after the dates above specified, it was to be lawful for the Prior and his successors to re-enter and take possession of the property as they had it aforetime, the present lease in aught notwithstanding. If the profits of the contributions, which were estimated at the annual value of lxxxxij^{li}, were suspended, the farmer and his assigns were not to be burdened with the entire amount, but were to pay those monies only which they should actually receive, and during the suspension aforesaid were to be allowed the difference in their aforesaid annual rent. John Vernay bound himself, and his heirs and executors, to the performance of these several agreements under a bond of two hundred pounds sterling; and also that at the end of the term he and his assigns should surrender and deliver to the Preceptor of Buclande for the time being all the ornaments of the chapel there, with all the stock living and dead, which were specified on the back

of the indenture. The document was sealed with the seals of the Prior and of John Vernay aforesaid, of which each had a counterpart with the seal of the other, and was "dated in our House of Clerkenwell, by London, in our Assembly holden there on the twentieth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand five hundredth."*

It would appear either that this agreement was not observed, and that the alternative provided for came into operation, or that a transfer was effected with permission of the lessors; for so early as the 10th of March, 1507-8, at an "Assembly" holden on that day at the House of S. John, at Clerkenwell,—present, the Lord Prior, Thomas Docwra, Br. John Tong, Preceptor of Ribston, Mount S. John, and Carbrok; Br. Thomas Sheffelde, Preceptor of Bruerlay and Shengay; Br. Lansellot Docwra, Preceptor of Dynmore and Templecombe; Br. John Rawson, Preceptor of Swynfelde; and Br. Thomas Golyn, Preceptor of Baddisford and Dynglay,—a lease of the Preceptory of Buclande Prior's was granted to Edmund Myl, of Wellys, gentleman, and to Anne his wife, together with the manors of Bodmescomb and Cove, in the county of Devon. The terms of the lease are precisely similar to those already detailed, and the language all but identical, save that the special mention is omitted of Alexander Vernay, the Chaplain of Bodmescomb, who may be supposed to have departed this life during the interval.†

Once more a Confirmation was granted to the Sisters of their early privilege which has been so often before us. It is a document of a most curious kind, and especially so when we consider it with reference to the character of him

* MS Lansd. 200, ff. lxxxiiij, lxxxiiij b. Appendix, No. XXI.
† MS. Cott. Claud. E. VI. ff. liij b, liiij.

from whom it came. In the second year of his reign, King Henry VIII. addressed letters of "inspeximus" to his beloved in Christ Thomas Docwra, Prior of the Hospital in England, reciting the terms of the previous letters, and granting through him to the Prioress and Sisters of Bucland a hundred and fifty-six cartloads of wood every year, from his park of Petherton, on the ground of their offering up constant and devout prayers for his own health, and that of his dearest consort Katharine during their lifetime, and for their souls after their decease. Every cartload was to be of the draught of six horses or eight oxen ; and, inasmuch as the time was limited in the former letters to the interval between the feast of the Annunciation and that of All Saints, they were now at liberty to collect the firewood from the latter feast to that of S. George the Martyr, the 23rd of April. They were also permitted to place sufficient fences round those parts of the park were the future fuel was growing, so that the young shoots might not be damaged, and that cattle and other animals might not injure the same. It was also allowed them, if they saw fit, to gather the amount of two years in one, but in that case they were not to remove any during the whole of the following year. All these concessions were to be enjoyed without any payment to the keeper of the park, or any fine to the hanaper of the chancery. The instrument was dated at Canterbury, the 5th of April, 1511.*

The arrangement between the Chapter of the Order and the farmer of Buckland was of but short duration. Edmund Myl died, and his widow became the wife of Lionel Norres in 1514. The lease was surrendered, and the Prior and his Chapter granted an annuity of ten

* Confirm. 2 Hen. VIII., p. 10, n. 7.

pounds, out of the issues of the Preceptory, for the term of the life of the survivor. The instrument was dated the 11th of January, 1514-5.*

In 1516, the property was leased to Henry Thorneton, gentleman, of Currymalett, for forty years, from the feast of the Nativity of S. John the Baptist next ensuing, at a rent of one hundred and three pounds, six shillings, and eight pence sterling a year. The increase of ten pounds in the yearly rental which is thus apparent was to meet the annuity of the same amount, just mentioned, which was, however, to revert to the farmer on the death of the annuitants. The terms of the lease in other respects were similar to those of the former. It was dated at the House of S. John at Clerkenwell, the 24th of April, 1516.†

The Hereford pension was too valuable to be surrendered without a struggle, though its retention was at this period not unfrequently accompanied by an appeal to the law. On the 13th of February, 9 Henry VIII., 1517-8, a writ was issued to the Sheriff of Hereford, setting forth that, forasmuch as Sir William Herbert, of Troy, Knt., late Sheriff of that County, had taken an allowance in his account connected with his office, from Michaelmas, 7th Henry VIII., to the same feast then next ensuing, lately rendered to the Exchequer, of a sum of vj^{li} xvj^{s} xj^{d}, as though the same had been paid to the Prioress of Bukland, that being her pension from time immemorial payable from the issues of the said county by the hands of the Sheriff for the time being, as by inspection of the Exchequer Rolls was evident; and forasmuch as the Prioress had made grievous complaint to the King, which he had accepted, that for Easter and Michaelmas, 1515, the money

* MS. Cott. Claud. E. VI. ff. cxlvij, cxlvij b.
† MS. Cott. Claud. E. VI., ff. clxij b, clxiij, clxiij b.

had not been paid, to the no small loss and damage of the said Prioress ; forasmuch also as she had petitioned the King for the providing of a suitable remedy in this regard, His said Majesty, graciously acceding to her petition, and willing that satisfaction should be made to her, in agreement with justice, had issued his writ to the Sheriff that by good and legal men of his bailiwick he should summon the aforesaid William Herbert to appear before the Barons of the Exchequer, at Westminster, in Easter quinzaine, then and there to show cause, if he could, why he should not answer and satisfy the Prioress of the sum aforesaid, and to do and receive in the premises what the Court should think fit to order. At the time appointed the Prioress appeared in Court by Humfrey Bowland, her attorney, when Sir Edward Croft, Knt., Sheriff of Hereford, returned the writ with the endorsement that William Herbert was not found in his bailiwick, and had nothing in the same by which he might be called to show cause against execution of judgment. Thereupon the said William Herbert came not but made default. A writ was again issued, summoning the defaulter to appear at Westminster in the octaves of the Holy Trinity, which met with a similar result, as did another for his appearance in the octaves of S. Michael. After all the formalities of the law had been ineffectually employed to bring him to a sense of his duty, the Judges decided that the Prioress should have execution against him for the amount claimed, and a writ was issued to the Sheriff to make a distress on the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of the aforesaid William Herbert, and to present the money in Court at Westminster in the octaves of S. Martin, to be paid there and then to the said Prioress or her attorney ; and further to bring the said William before the Barons at Westminster

in the octaves of S. Hilary, to make satisfaction with the King for his contempt. On the 10th of February, 1518-9, he came by his attorney John Stede, and offered himself to make satisfaction, and was admitted by the Court to do so. The fine was appraised at the sum of 3^{s} 4^{d}, which was paid to Robert Castelton, Clerk of the Pleas of the Exchequer, whereupon the defendant was ordered to be dismissed.*

It will be recollected that, by the conditions of the leases already recited of the Buckland property to the successive farmers, there was an express reservation of the wood, underwood, and reparations of buildings. An indenture was now made between Thomas Docwra, Prior of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem in England, and his Brethren Knights of the same on the one part, and Henry Thornton, farmer of their Commandry of Bukeland, gentleman, on the other, by which the former covenanted, bargained, and sold for the residue of his lease unto the said Henry and his assigns all their wood and underwood lying, standing, and growing in their wood within the lordship of Hals, called Hals wood, containing by estimation xl acres, save and except two trees of "oke" in the same wood, of the best "okes" that will and may serve for timber for the said Prior and his Brethren, and their successors, from the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary last past, to the end and term of his lease. For this concession the said Henry paid xx^{li} sterling, with which the said Prior confessed himself to be well and truly satisfied and contented. It was agreed that the said Henry Thornton should build, repair, maintain, and support, as often as need should require, at his own cost and charge all manner of houses and buildings appertaining to the said Com-

* Plac. de Scacc. Mich. 10 Hen VIII., m. 2.

mandry; that it should be lawful for the said Henry to stub and grub all the said wood and underwood; and that he might, if he pleased, without impeachment of waste or destruction, alter, transpose and change all manner of buildings and houses, provided that he made others in their stead. He bound himself and his heirs in the sum of one hundred pounds sterling for the due performance of this engagement, which was entered into in the Chapter holden in the House of S. John's of Clerkenwell beside London, the 2nd of October, 1519.*

It is evident that, although there was still a nominal Preceptor at Buckland, he was in a very different position from that of his olden predecessor when the accounts of that worthy just two centuries before were so minutely laid open to our inspection.

On the same day as the date of the last instrument, the 2nd of October, 1519, the Prior and Chapter demised for a term of forty years to the said Henry Thornton, farmer of Bucland, a tenement with its appurtenances, late in the tenure of John Curson, situated and lying in the parish of S. Clement Danes, outside Temple Bar. The rent was forty shillings sterling a-year.†

The Hereford pension was again the ground of litigation in the year 1525-6. On the 6th of February, in the Hilary Term of that year, Katerine Bourchier, Prioress of Bukland, appeared before the Barons of the Exchequer, by Ralph Rathebowne, her attorney, and complained by bill against John Skudamore, Esq., late Sheriff of Hereford, then present in court on the matter of his account, that he owed and unjustly detained the sum of vj^{li} xvj^{s} xj^{d} due to the said Prioress. She alleged that she herself and all

* MS. Cott. Claud. E. VI., ff. clxxxiiij, clxxxviiij b.
† MS. Cott. Claud. E. VI., f. clxxxviij.

her predecessors had been seised of this pension from time immemorial in right of their Monastery, and recapitulated the arguments which were used on the former occasions, alleging that the pension had been and ought to be paid annually out of the issues and profits of the said county, by the hands of the Sheriff for the time being, at Easter and Michaelmas in equal portions, and that the predecessors of the Sheriff had been accustomed to have an allowance of the sum in their account every year without warrant. She further alleged that although she had made her complaint on the 26th of January, in the 17th year of Henry VIII., 1525-6, at Westminster, by Humphrey Boland, her Serjeant, offering to deliver to the late Sheriff her letters of acquittance attesting the payment of the aforesaid monies then in arrear, for Easter and Michaelmas, the 16th and 17th years respectively of Henry VIII., 1524, on which 26th day of January the defendant had enough in his hands of the issues and profits of the county to pay the plaintiff, he had not paid, but had refused and still did refuse to settle her claim, to the harm and loss to the plaintiff of four marcs. The late Sheriff by his attorney defended the force, injury, and damage alleged, and requested an audit of the bill aforesaid, after the hearing of which he replied that at present he was not advised to respond to the said plaintiff, and solicited a respite to Wednesday, the 7th of February, within which to reply, which was accordingly granted, and the same day was appointed for the plaintiff to attend.* As we hear no more of the case, he doubtless settled the matter to the Prioress's satisfaction, without the further litigation which could have but one result.

On the 11th of January, 21 Henry VIII., 1529-30, the Prioress and Convent demised their manor of Chilcombe,

* Plac. de Scacc. 17 Hen. VIII., m. 16.

with all messuages, lands, meadows, feeding grounds, and pastures, with their appurtenances, the advowson of the Church only excepted, to Thomas Jesoph and Joan his wife, with succession to Walter and Henry their sons, at a yearly rent of xiiij^{li}, to be paid at the feasts of S. Barnabas and S. Nicholas, in equal portions. All repairs of the premises, and other burdens and services, were to be borne by the said lessees.*

Once more a Sheriff of Hereford, in the person of Sir Edward Croft, was found to vexatiously contest the claim of the Sisters to their ancient pension. The culprit was still less excusable from having been himself the agent in bringing his predecessor to answer for a similar offence. On the 7th of July, 23 Henry VIII., 1531, Katerine Burchyer, Prioress of Bukland, came before the Barons of the Exchequer, by Ralph Rathebone, her attorney, and complained by bill against Sir Edward Croft, Knt., late Sheriff of Hereford, present in Court on the matter of his account, by Thomas Bowntayn, his attorney, forasmuch as he owed and unjustly detained the sum of vj^{li} xvj^{s} xj^{d}, the pension due to the plaintiff in right of her monastery. The terms of her plaint were precisely those which were made by her in the instances already before us, as to the antiquity and continuity of the pension itself; the fact that the previous Sheriff, Sir Richard Cornwall, Knt., and his predecessors had been accustomed to have allowance of the same in his annual account, by virtue of the letters of acquittance of the Prioress, without a formal warrant for its payment; that, although on the 3rd of February, 22nd Henry VIII., 1530-1, at Westminster, by William Portman, her Serjeant, she had offered her receipt for the money then in arrear for the Easter of the 21st and the Michaelmas of the

* Ministers' Accounts, 30 Hen. VIII. No. 128.
Parts. for Grants. John Hyde.

22nd year of the King, and had demanded payment; and although the late Sheriff had at that time in hand sufficient of the issues of the County to satisfy her claim, he had not paid the money or any part thereof, to the loss and damage to the plaintiff of four marcs. The line of defence also was similar to the previous instances. The late Sheriff defended the force, injury, &c., solicited an audit of the bill, and asked for a further time of hearing, the octaves of S. Michael, within which to reply. This was allowed by the Court, but after several respites, to Wednesday, the 18th of October, Wednesday, the 25th of October, the Friday following that day, and Monday, the 6th of November, on each of which no cause was shown to the bar and exclusion of the action of the Prioress, she prayed for judgment in the premises, and the payment of her debt, together with her damages, costs, and charges, which was accordingly granted.*

By indenture, dated the 2nd of March, 25 Henry VIII., 1533-4, the Prioress and Convent demised their Rectory of Bromfyld, with tithes of corn, lands, oblations, obventions, and emoluments whatsoever, to the same pertaining, to Joan Atwyll and John her son, for the term of their lives, at an annual rent of viij^{li} v^{s}, to be paid at the feasts of the Annunciation and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. The lessees were also to provide the stipend of a Chaplain celebrating in the parish church. Repairs of the premises and of the chancel of the church were to be done at the charge of the Prioress and Convent, except the roofing of the said chancel with tiles and of the other buildings with straw, which were to be at the charge of the farmers.†

We are now close upon times of trouble. I have already in previous Memoirs entered fully into the history of that

* Plac. de Scacc. 23 Hen. VIII., m. 10 dors.
† Ministers' Accounts, 30—31 Hen. VIII. No. 128.

most unscrupulous movement which terminated in the violent suppression of the Religious Houses, and the wholesale robbery of their possessions. The main features of that odious tragedy are necessarily the same in every instance, although the details are as varied as the multiform shapes in which tyranny, falsehood, sacrilege, and murder can present themselves and be exhibited when under no restraint nor necessity to deceive. Happily, therefore, there will not be any need to take the reader over ground with which he is already acquainted, and which is too unlovely to be voluntarily allowed to detain us. I will, accordingly, introduce him to the particular and special information which I have succeeded in gathering in connexion with the House on the history of which we are now employed.

No Declaration of the King's Supremacy, made either by the officers of the Preceptory or by the Sisterhood, has been preserved. It may be presumed that such was submitted to and accepted by them, but the record of the transaction is not, to my knowledge, extant.

Immediately afterwards, with a view to apportion the payment voted to the King for the support of his newly invented dignity, followed the well-known "Valor." It is a most important document, as furnishing us with a minute account of the possessions of the House, with its income and expenditure in customary deductions, on the eve of the Dissolution. I will, therefore, present the reader with its details, only more lucidly arranged than in their original and obscure form. Under each head he will thus be able without difficulty to see the gross and net values of the estates, both before and after the dues, stipends, and other disbursements had been accounted for and liquidated, and the surplus which subsequently remained for the maintenance of the House itself.

PRIORY OF MYNCHYN BOCKELAND.

Declaration of the Extent and Annual Value of all and singular the Lands and Tenements and other Possessions, with the Tithes, Oblations, and all other Issues of the divers Benefices and Chapels belonging and appropriated to the aforesaid Priory, as below appeareth; that is to say, in the time of Katerine Bowghshere, now Prioress at the same place, approved and examined by the Commissioners aforenamed [Sir Andrew Lutterell and Hugh Mallet, Esqr., Commissioners; Hugh Trotter and John Plompton, Auditors.].

Lands round the Priory.

Value in issues of the Demesne Lands, remaining in the hands of the Prioress, and taxed by four trustworthy men. So clear	cxvij^{s} viij^{d}

Boockeland.

Value in Rents of assize as well of the Free as of the Customary Tenants there, per annum .. xxij^{li}	
Out of this :—*	
In a chief rent to the Prior of S. John of Jerusalem in England there, per annum .. .. ix^{d}	xxj^{li} xix^{s} iij^{d}
So clear	
Fines of land there	xx^{s}

Wellys.

Value in Rents of divers burgages there, per annum .. .. xlix^{s}	
Out of this :—	
In Rent resolute to the Bishop	

* "Ultra" in the original, signifying that a deduction is to be made from the previous amount.

of Bath, per annum	ix^{d}	
In the fee of William Vowell, Steward there, per annum ..	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	xxxj^{s} vij^{d}
In the fee of Alexander Pophame, Bailiff there, per annum ..	iij^{s} iiij^{d}	
And there remains clear		

GOTTON.

Value in Rents of assize, as well of the Free as of the Customary Tenants there, per annum ..	iiij^{li} xj^{s}	
Out of this :—		iiij^{li} x^{s}
In Rent resolute to the Abbat of Glastonbury there, per annum	xij^{d}	
And there remains clear		

NORTHPETHRTON.

Value in Rents of assize, as well of the Free as of the Customary Tenants there, per annum	xxiij^{li} ix^{d}	
Out of this :—		
For a priest in the parish church there, daily celebrating for the souls of Henry Erley and others, by composition exhibited, per annum ..	vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	xiiij^{li} ix^{d}
In the fee of John Walton, Steward there, per annum	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
In the fee of John Bekyn, Bailiff there, per annum ..	xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
And there remains clear		
In fines of land there, per annum	xxx^{s}	
With perquisites of the Court there, and other Casualties	iiij^{s}	xxxiiij^{s}

BRYMTON RAFF.

Value in Rents of assize there, per annum.

Clear .. .. xxiiij^{s} viij^{d}

CADECOTE.

Value in Rent of one tenement there, per annum. Clear .. .. .. ij^{s} iiij^{d}

HOREWOODE.

Value in Rent of one tenement there, per annum. Clear .. .. .. xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

ASSHE AND THORNEFFAWCON.

Value in Rents of assize there, per annum	xlvij^{s} vj^{d}	xlv^{s} vj^{d}
Out of this :—		
Paid in the fee of John Popham, Bailiff there, per annum ..	ij^{s}	
And there remains clear		

COUNTY OF DORSET.

CHYLDCOMB.

Value in Rents of assize there, per annum. Clear xiiij^{li}

PREMESLEGH IN SHYLBORNE.

Value in Rents of Assize there, as well of the Free as of the Customary Tenants, per annum	xiiij^{li} iij^{s} viij^{d}	xiij^{li} ix^{s} iiij^{d}
Out of this :—		
In Rent resolute to the Bishop of Sarum, per annum ..	xij^{d}	
In the fee of John Hely, Bailiff there, per annum ..	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
And there remains clear		
Perquisites of the Court there	iij^{s} iiij^{d}	xx^{s}
Other Casualties, with Fines of land	xvj^{s} viij^{d}	

VALUE OF SPIRITUALS, AS UNDER.

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

RECTORY OF BOCKELAND, WITH THE CHAPEL OF MIHILL CHURCH.

Value in issues of predial tithes.. ..	vij^{s} xj^{d}	xij^{s} v^{d}
Of personal tithes	iij^{s}	
Other casualties there, in common years	xviij^{d}	
Clear		

RECTORY OF KYLMERSDON.

Value in issues of predial and personal tithes	xviij^{li} x^{s}	xviij^{li} xv^{s}
Demesne Lands, with other casualties there, in common years	v^{s}	
Clear		

BROMEFYLD.

Value in issues of predial and personal tithes, demesne lands, with other casualties there, in common years	viij^{li} v^{s}	viij^{li} iij^{s}
Out of this :—		
Paid to the Archdeacon of Taunton, for synodals, per annum ..	ij^{s}	
So clear		

RECTORY OF NORTHPETHERTON.

Value in issues of predial and personal tithes, with other casualties there, in common years ..	xxiiij^{li} x^{d}	xxiij^{li} xj^{s} j^{d} ob'.
Out of this :—		
Paid to the Bishop of Bath, for procurations, per annum	ij^{s} iij^{d}	
Paid to the Archdeacon of Taunton, for synodals, per annum ..	vij^{s} v^{d} ob'	
So clear		

BRIGGEWATER.

Value in a Pension from the Prior there, for tithes of Horsy Mede, per annum. Clear .. .. viij^{s}

CANYNGTON.

Value in a Pension from the Prioress there, for tithes of Cleyhull, per annum. Clear .. vij^{s}

STONDENHAY.

Value in a Pension from Alexander Popham, for tithes there, per annum. Clear .. .. xl^{s}

COUNTY OF LINCOLN.

DYRTON.

Value in issues of tithes of all kinds	xxix^{li}	xxviij^{li} xv^{s} iiij^{d}
Demesne Lands, with other casualties, in common years	xxij^{s}	
Out of this :—		
In the fee of Gothlac Overton, Receiver there, per annum. Clear ..	xxvj^{s} viij^{d}	

DONYNGTON.

Value in issues of tithes of all kinds, demesne lands, with other casualties, in common years ..	x^{li}	ix^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}
Out of this, per annum :—		
In the fee of Gothlac Overton, Receiver there, per annum .. Clear	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	

ESSEX.

PRECEPTORY OF RAYNHAME.

Value in a Pension paid by William Weston, Prior of S. John of Jerusalem in England, per annum. Clear — c^{s}

SOMERSET.

PRECEPTORY OF TEMPLE COMB.

Value in a Pension paid by Brother Edmund Husey there, per annum. Clear .. — xxvj^{s} viij^{d}

KENT.

PRECEPTORY OF SWYNFYLD.

Value in a Pension paid by Brother Edward Brown there, per annum. Clear .. — xl^{s}

NORTHAMPTON.

PRECEPTORY OF KERBROKE.

Value in a Pension paid by Brother John Rawson there, per annum. Clear — xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

KING'S ALMS.

Value in a Receipt by the hands of the Sheriff of Hereford yearly in the Exchequer of our Lord the King there, per annum. Clear — vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

SOMERSET.

CHURCH OF POWLET.

Value in an Annual Pension there, per annum.
Clear .. .. — xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

CHURCH OF NORTHPETHERTON.

Value in an Annual Pension there, per annum.
Clear .. .. — liij^{s} iiij^{d}

CHURCH OF TOLLANDE.

Value in an Annual Pension there, per annum.
Clear .. .. — ij^{s}

CHURCH OF BEKYNTON.

Value in an Annual Pension there, per annum.
Clear .. .. — xx^{s}

TEMPORALS.

DEVON.

HELE, IN TAWSTOKE PARISH.

Value in Rents of assize, as well of the Free as of the Customary Tenants there, per annum	xxiij^{li} xvj^{s} iiij^{d} q'	
Out of this:—		
In the fee of Thomas Perd, Steward there, per annum	xiij^{s} iiij$^{d}_{\epsilon}$	xxij^{li} xix^{s} viij^{d} q'.
In the fee of Richard Payn, Receiver there, per annum	iij^{s} iiij^{d}	
And so clear		
In Fines of land there, per annum ..	xx^{s}	
With Perquisites of the Court and other Casualties	iij^{s} iiij^{d}	xxiij^{s} iiij^{d}

CORNWALL.

BRODE WOODE WYGGER.

Value in Rents of assize, as well of the Free as of the Customary Tenants there, per annum. Clear	lxxv^{s} iiij^{d} ob'.
SUM TOTAL OF THE VALUE as well of all the Temporals as of the Spirituals above mentioned	ccxxiij^{li} vij^{s} iiij^{d} q'.
The tithe from thence	xxij^{li} vj^{s} ix^{d} *

Such was the precise state and value of the property in the 27th year of Henry VIII., 1534.

The "Valor" gives us also the names of the following as Incumbents of benefices at the period of its formation:—

* Val. Com. Somers. ff. 80b, 81, 81b. Val. Eccl., vol. I., pp. 210, 211. MS. Harl. 701, f. 104b.

John Aisshelok was rector of Beckyngton, Thomas Thomson was vicar of Kilmersdon, Thomas Hill was vicar of Halse, John Dawes was rector of Hethfelde, Robert Balche was vicar of Powlet, George Verney was rector of Dodyngton, Robert Baylly was rector of Elwurthy, John Bulcume was vicar of Northpetherton, John Langdon, Water Jones and John Saunders were chantry priests in the same church, and John Crosse was rector of Tolland.*

This return confirmed the desire and paved the way for a carefully planned course of systematic aggression. Before, however, we enter into the narrative of the closing scenes, which are now rapidly drawing onwards, and while the ancient state of the House is still before us, it will be well to notice a few important particulars connected with the position and life of its inmates, and with the olden aspect of the place itself.

So far as we can learn from the details already presented, —and I believe that, how meagre and fragmentary soever they may be considered by some who are inexperienced in such researches, they are very nearly all that can now be recovered,—the Sisters of Buckland, although constantly numbering in their Community the daughters of great and noble houses, were but slenderly supported, and for a long time at least very far from adequately provided for. They were considered also in the light of a burden and grievance by the Officers charged in a special degree with their defence and well-being. Consisting at first but of a Prioress and nine Sisters, the Society amounted in the year 1338 to so many as fifty ladies, who, together with their servants, must have needed for their support a considerable revenue, a great part of which was no doubt supplied, as the

* Val. Eccl. I., pp. 159, 160, 172, 212, 214, 215, 221, 223.

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Preceptor then hinted in his return, by eleemosynary contributions from the neighbourhood and more distant friends. Their precise relationship to the Order of S. John has been, I think, greatly misunderstood. It has been said that they "had, at first, great dependance upon the knights, but afterwards they disengaged themselves, and became a distinct Priory or Hospital of Nuns of the Order of S. Augustine;" and that "there is no mention of their being subordinate to any other Religious."* The contrary, as it appears to me, has been clearly shown. At no time were they distinct or independent. Their Chaplain and Steward were always Officers of the Order; and they received their ancient pensions, and were accounted "obedientiariæ" down to the period of the Dissolution. That the Priory was distinct from the Preceptory as a religious Community is, of course, certain; for it was the very reason of its foundation that the Sisterhood might be thus separated. But their union with the Order itself was never, that I can discover, broken. And the fact that they were called Nuns of the Order of S. Augustine is not to be understood as militating against this view, inasmuch as the Hospitalars, as well as the Templars, were members of that numerous body of Conventual Societies which accepted the rule of S. Austin as the guide of their religious life. Tanner's subsequent assertion that "it doth not appear when or by whom the Preceptory was founded, but some have thought it more ancient than the Nunnery," is so fully answered in the foregoing pages that it need not occupy us further.

Another and very conclusive evidence, at once of their obedientiary position and of their unbroken union with the Order, is exhibited in the fact that from beginning to

* Tanner, Not. Mon. by Nasmith.

end they did not so much as present to their appropriated benefices. I have recovered the following names of the incumbents of the parishes down to the time of the Suppression, and doubt not that, to the local reader especially, the lists, however imperfect,—and I regret that very imperfect they are, though, from the loss of some of the Episcopal Registers, no care can now avail to make them complete—will be objects of considerable interest. It will be seen that the Prior of the Hospital in England, and neither the Prioress nor the Preceptor of Buckland, was the patron in every instance:—

Incumbents of North Petherton:—John de Messingham, 4th March, 1309-10, (Reg. Drok. fol. xxix b.); Laurence de Cherleton, 19th October, 1310, (Ib. fol. xxxiij b.); William de Dychton, 2nd August, 1313, (Ib. fol. cxxxix b.). These were presented by Prior William de Tothale. Thomas de Foxtone, 6th September, 1332, (Reg. Rad. fol. lxiij b.); presented by Prior Leonard de Tybertis. Nicholas de Somerton, 15th December, 1342, (Ib. fol. cclxxiij.); Nicholas de la Mor, 3rd October, 1345, (Ib. fol. cccv.); William de Avene, 26th April, 1347, (Ib. fol. cccxviij b.); Reginald de Fardyngeston, 24th February, 1348-9, (Ib. fol. cccxxxvij b.); presented by Prior Philip de Thame. John Baylleven, 1381, (Plac. Quo War. 4 Ric. II.); John Coleford, 1394, (Ped. Fin. Somers. 17 Ric. II.); Robert Noris, 1447, (Reg. Bek. fol. lix b.); John Harowe, A.M., 18th January, 1504-5; William Parkhowse, A.M., 8th June, 1523; presented by Prior Thomas Docwra. John Bulcombe, 30th October, 1531, (MS. Harl. 6967, pp. 3, 42, 44b.); presented by Prior William Weston.

Incumbents of Kilmersdon:—William, 1330, (Plac. de Banco, 4 Edw. III.); William de Donkeswill (?), 26th November, 1331, (Reg. Rad. fol. xlv.); John de Messyng-

ham, 10th January, 1334-5, (Ib. fol. c.); presented by Prior Leonard de Tybertis. John de Upton, 3rd August, 1341, (Ib. fol. cclxb.); Nicholas de Stanlak, 22nd August, 1348, (Ib. fol. cccxxv.); John Markwille, 13th December, 1348, (Ib. fol. cccxxviij.); presented by Prior Philip de Thame. Reginald, 1359, (Plac. Quo War. 33 Edw. III.) Edward——1377, (Cler. Subs.) William Pateryk, 18th Feb., 1401-2. (Reg. Bowet, fol. xij.) John Shoper——; John Thomlys, 30th Aug. (Reg. Morton, Abp. Cant. f. lxv b.) Robert Symond, ——; Thomas Bourgchier, 14th September, 1521; James Harwode, 20th April, 1524; presented by Prior Thomas Docwra. Thomas Pullon,——; John Tomason, (Thomas Thomson, of the "Valor") 17th June, 1534, (MS. Harl. 6967, pp. 29b, 34b, 47.); presented by Prior William Weston.

Incumbents of Elworthy:—John de Messingham, 19th October, 1310, (Reg. Drok. ff. xxxiijb., xxxix b.); William de Jarponnyle, 16th October, 1315, (Ib ff. lxxxxj, lxxxxij.); presented by Prior William de Tothale. Ralph de Hokynton, 24th November, 1323; Richard de Coute, 19th September, 1327, (Ib. fol. cclxix.); presented by Prior Thomas L'Archer. William Legh, 26th April, 1339, (Reg. Rad. fol. clxxxxvj b.); John de Sutton, 30th May, 1346, (Ib. fol. cccix b.); Walter de Chadeleshounte, 28th August, 1349, (Ib. fol. cccliij.); John le Potter, 16th August, 1351, (Ib. fol. ccclxxxvijb.); presented by Prior Philip de Thame. Stephen Chapman, ——; John Trevennaunt, 15th March, 1455-6, (MS. Harl. 6966, p. 83.); presented by Prior Robert Botyll. John Poole, ——; Edmund Sterne, 26th October, 1506; Robert Bailly, 5th May, 1509, (MS. Harl. 6967, pp. 6b, 11.); presented by Prior Thomas Docwra.

Incumbents of Halse:—William Grey, 1307, (Plac. Quo War. 35 Edw. I.); John Brent, ——; Thomas

Hernyngston, 4th December, 1401, (Reg. Bowet, fol. iijb.); Thomas Passewar, 16th October, 1407, (Reg. Bowet, fol. xlv.); Richard Philip, ——; Thomas Hyll, LL.B., 23rd January, 1505-6, (MS. Harl. 6967, p. 5b.); presented by Prior Thomas Docwra. Thomas Cox, 1541, (Cler. Subs).

Incumbents of Heathfield :—Owen de Cory, ——; Robert de Pippecote, 28th September, 1332, (Reg. Rad. lxvij b.); presented by Prior Leonard de Tybertis. Richard de Poterne, 4th July, 1346, (Ib. fol. cccx.); Richard Payn, 22nd April, 1348, (Ib. fol. cccxxiij b.); William Redmor, 4th February, 1348-9, (Ib. fol. cccxxxvj b.); John de Donne, 1354, (Hyll Cart. pp. 52, 53.); presented by Prior Philip de Thame. William Mogregg, 1406, (Cler. Subs.); William Dene, 14th June, 1415, (Reg. Bubw. lxxxxix.); presented by Prior Walter Grendon. William Parker, 3rd November, 1432, (Reg. Staff. fol. lxxix); presented by Prior Robert Malorre. John Lyng, 26th March, 1441, (Ib. fol. lxxviij.); presented by the same. Simon Sodbury, 27th March, 1460, (Reg. Bek. fol cclij); presented by Prior Robert Botyl. John Whittokesmede, 2nd November, 1480, (Reg. Still. fol. lxxiiij.); presented by Prior John Weston. John de la Herne, 27th February, 1495, (vac. Fox, fol. 1.); presented by Prior John Kendal. Robert Collys, 24th March, 1501, (Reg. King, fol. lxxxj.); John Harper, 19th January, 1502, (Ib. fol. ciiij.); Thomas Banys, 15th March, 1503. (Reg. Warham, Abp. Cant. fol. 196b.); William Meyre, 10th March, 1505-6; presented by Prior Thomas Docwra, (Reg. Hadr. fol. xxiiij.); Edward Kebyll, ——; John Dawes, 2nd June, 1534, (Reg. Clarke, fol. lv.); presented by Prior William Weston.

Incumbents of Tolland :—William de Banton, 20th January, 1265, (MS. Harl. 6985 B., p. 121b.); presented

by Prior Roger de Vere. Gilbert de Quenton, ——; William de Quenton, 10th April, 1320, (Reg. Drok. fol. cxxxiiij b.); presented by Richard de Leycestre. William Morys, 28th August, 1349, (Reg. Rad. fol. cccliij.); Nicholas de Blenye, ——; Walter Scammel, 25th June, 1351, (Ib. fol. ccclxxxvj.); presented by Prior Philip de Thame. Walter Crosse, ——; John Crosse, A.M., 25th May, 1517, (MS. Harl. 6967, p. 23b.); presented by Prior Thomas Docwra.

Of the churches of Broomfield, Durston, and Michaelchurch, the two latter the nearest neighbours to Buckland, no names of any Vicars have been preserved. My previous pages, however, have furnished those of several Chaplains connected with these places, which is all, I fear, that can now be recovered. The benefices themselves were of small value. Durston was returned, as already remarked, in 1426, as worth vj^{li}, and Michaelchurch as worth iv^{li};* while of Broomfield no estimate is given.

It was doubtless for the peace of the Sisterhood that its members were so little called upon to interfere in the more secular affairs of their House. If power were less freely imparted, we may hope that anxiety was removed in an equal measure. The maintenance of their rights was in stronger hands than their own, and the benefit was theirs without the labour and danger which its defence involved. The instance of the rector of Beckington is exactly in point. When the payment of his annual pension was not forthcoming, as we have seen, in the year 1353, the Prioress and Sisters had not to endure the ordeal of prosecuting their suit in person against the defaulter, but it was the great Prior of England who came to the rescue, and obtained the remedy which the law provided. The Here-

* Reg. Staff. fol. ix.

ford pension seems to have given them the greatest trouble, although the litigation in which it occasionally involved them always ended in their favour.

The daily life of these ladies in the privacy of their conventual home had, we may be sure, little to disturb its repose, save the occasional matters which we have had detailed, in which they were brought into contact with the noisy world without. They had little if any intercourse with the adjacent Commandry; as, in the first place, the statutes of the Order were imperative against the admission of women to domestic offices; and, in the second, the feeling existing between the two Societies was not such as to conduce to intimacies of a higher character. For the former position, indeed, their generally noble or gentle birth, and for the latter, their attitude, always, as would appear, antagonistic, equally disqualified them. Nor is there a single instance related of them (or I would have honestly mentioned it, as my object has invariably been to present as truthful an aspect as lies in my power of those Houses and their inmates whose chronicles I seek to rescue from oblivion,) of any violation of the laws of morality. So far as we know—and we should be sure to possess some evidence of the contrary fact had it existed—the tongue of scandal itself was dumb. The blameless Sisterhood pursued its way of peace, broken only by trifling and unfrequent interruptions, or terminated by the end that comes alike to all. We may be well assured that the House was one of those, where, with all the religion, all the education of the age was encouraged, and where both religion and education yielded to the full their refined and refining influences. It was, doubtless, also a noted seminary for the daughters of the great neighbouring families. The Berkeleys, Erleghs, Montacutes, Wrothams, Bouchers and

others were ever at home at Buckland, and learned from the good Sisters all the mental accomplishments which they in after life possessed. Reading, writing, some knowledge of arithmetic, the art of embroidery, music, and French, "aftur the scole of Stratford atte Bowe," were the recognised course of study, while the preparation of perfumes, balsams, simples, and confectionary was among the more ordinary departments of the education afforded; and we should wrong alike the teachers and the taught if we regarded the result as unfavourable. The life of intellectuality and religious quiet had numberless charms; and the pupil was frequently so enamoured of the contrast between it and that with which she was brought in contact elsewhere, that instances were not wanting of the resignation of all those worldly advantages which high birth and powerful connexions could impart to their possessor, and of the permanent abode as Sister or as Prioress within the venerable and well-beloved walls of her early and holy home.*

We have already noticed that, in the return made to the Grand Master of the Order in 1338, the Sisters are described as wearing the habit of the Hospital. The chief peculiarity of this consisted of a black mantle with a white cross in the front. In other respects the attire of the ladies was, I presume, that of the other Nuns of the Diocese, indeed of the members of Augustinian Sisterhoods in general—a black cloak with a long cowl, a short upper white tunic over a longer black one, and a whimple which covered the bosom and ascended in many folds to the chin.

I possess two interesting rings, which may be supposed to have decorated the fingers of more than one generation

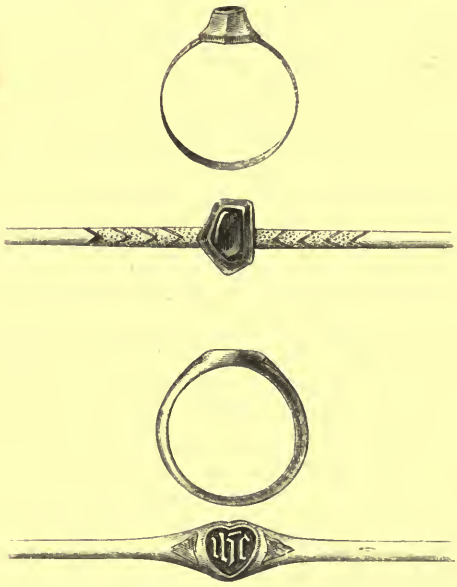
* For some details connected with mediæval English Nuns in general the reader is referred to the Preface of this Volume.

of the Sisters, and were probably employed at the solemn ceremony which separated them for ever from the outer world, and introduced them to the seclusion in which they sought and, we will believe, found repose. The earlier of the two is a work of the thirteenth century, and may so far have belonged to the good Prioress Fina herself. It is of gold, set with an uncut polished sapphire, the hoop very thin and most delicately engraved with chevronels on the shoulders. It was found in "Coglett Field," near the site of the Priory, in 1858, by a labourer employed on the place. *(See the figure.)* The other, also of gold, but much stouter, is of the fifteenth century, and has an escutcheon shaped bezel, with the monogram ihs. It was dug up by another labourer in a field called "Broadworthy," near the site of the Priory, in 1853. *(See the figure.)* Another, which was described to me as of a cable pattern, was found in the immediate neighbourhood, in 1851, and has since been taken by its owner to one of our colonies.

No list of the Prioresses had been constructed previous to that which I furnished to a local Society. In the meagre accounts of the place previously published, the name of the last only was given, and that but in connexion with the Dissolution and events which almost immediately preceded it. For some reason or other, a question into which I shall enter presently, their succession is not recorded in the Episcopal Registers, and thus the best of all means of obtaining information of the names and eras of Superiors of Religious Houses is unfortunately in this instance of no avail. It should also be remembered that the names of the Heads of Religious Houses are not usually given in ancient documents. The person is ordinarily spoken of as an officer and not as an individual. This, indeed, must have been evident to every reader of the previous pages.

RINGS

Found near the Site of Mynchin Buckland Priory.



(Actual Size.)

Drawn and Engraved for the REV. THOMAS HUGO'S *History of Buckland Priory.*

From all sources, however, I can at length supply the following series :—

1. Fina, the first Prioress, began her conventual reign in 1180, and died about sixty years afterwards, 1240.
2. Alienor de Actune (?) about 1280.
3. Isabel occurs in 1292.
4. Isabel la Louwe in 1301. Possibly she is the same as the last mentioned.
5. Isabel de Berkeleye in 1330, 1335, and 1337.
6. Katharine de Erlegh after 1337.
7. Mary in 1371.
8. Alice in 1405.
9. Elizabeth in 1492.
10. Katharine Bowser, Bowrghshere, Bourgcher, Bourgchier, Bourgheyr, Burgchier, Burchyer, Bourchier, Bourcher, or Boucher, the last Prioress, in 1526, 1531, 1534, 1536, 1538, and 1539. The prominent facts in the life of this lady we shall shortly have before us in detail.

In this list I have not thought it necessary to enter into the circumstances connected with each of the Prioresses, as they have either been already given in the foregoing pages or will be presented to the reader before the conclusion of the History.

I have already stated that the succession of the Prioresses does not occur in the Episcopal Registers. For this fact it is difficult to account, as, even on the supposition that the Prior of the Hospital at Clerkenwell appointed the Superior without the formality of an election by the Sisterhood, it is not the less strange that no notice is given of the oath of canonical obedience to the Diocesan, or of his mandate to the Archdeacon to induct the elect into corporal possession of the revenues of her House. Unhappily we are hereby deprived also of those pleasant

episodes of Conventual life which form so striking a feature in the memorials of Canyngton and Mynchin Barrow, and to which I have no need to draw the attention of the reader, as they must readily approve themselves to his notice alike from the interest and the novelty of their details.

Collinson, from "MS. Palmer," says that Rachel Newton was Prioress in 1537, and that Elizabeth Carey and Catherine Nevil, Sisters of the House, were living in 1565, and married, the first to Thomas Speed, and the second to the Vicar of Ling. That these statements are entirely erroneous I am able to prove by reference to the official list of the last members of the Sisterhood, which shall be given in its proper place, and wherein no such names appear. This must be held conclusive.

Of the Preceptors :—

1. Hugh occurs about 1185.
2. Richard de Bramforde in 1290.
3. John de Wherewell in 1321.
4. John Diluwe in 1338.
5. Henry Crouchale, locum tenens of William Hullys, Prior, presented John Grobham to the vicarage of Toller, 18th Nov. 1420.*
6. Richard Mareis occurs in 1536. This last I give on authority of Collinson, who does not, however, add the the source of his information, which may be as inaccurate and idle as the instance just before us.

Of the local features of the Priory and Preceptory we have no account save the incidental notices of various buildings in the Return of 1338, and a Survey mentioned by Collinson, from "MS. Palmer," as having been taken in the year 1571, when much of the conventual structure

* Hutchins, from Reg. Chandler. Hist. Dorset. Vol. ii. p. 267.

would have been altered if not totally destroyed. These relate exclusively to the Preceptory. In the former, as the reader will recollect, we have mention made of a court-house, a bakehouse, a dovecot, and a small church. The latter shows that the house "of the Preceptor and his Brethren was on the north side of the great church," and was called at the period of the Survey "the House of the Lord Prior's Steward." It must not, however, be inferred from this absence of detail that the Priory was otherwise than well fitted for its inmates. The religious Communities of the Middle Ages were usually occupants of structures of incomparable excellence, and we may be tolerably sure that such a Sisterhood as that of Buckland was no exception to this almost invariable rule. Their abode was no doubt a picturesque group of buildings, to which nothing but the glorious architecture of mediæval times could have given existence; buildings ever lovely themselves, and attracting the love of all that look upon them with rightly appreciating and understanding eyes. It is much to be regretted that Leland, who was in the immediate neighbourhood, if not at the very place, does not furnish us with a description of the scene. He pleasantly describes the park from whence the Sisters obtained their firewood, and the deer with which it abounded. "There ys a great Numbre of Dere longging to this (Pederton) Park, yet hath it almost no other Enclosure but Dikes to let [obstruct] the Catelle of the Commune to cum yn. The Dere trippe over these Dikes and feede al about the Fennes, and resort to the Park agayn. There is a praty Lodge motid yn the Parke. There cummyth a praty Broke through the Park, and half a Mile beneth the Park it goith ynto Ivel. This Brooke is caullid Peder, and risith West South West yn the Hylles aboute a 2 Myles of. First it cummith by North-Pedreton, a praty

uplandisch Toun, wher is a fair Chirch, the Personage wherof was impropriate to Mynchinbocland. * * * From the Lodge in Pederton Parke to Northpederton a Mile.* But he leaves the home of the Sisters without a word, and no care can now avail to supply its absence.

The Conventual Church was as usual a place of sepulture. It is true that we have but few visible evidences of the fact, though we still possess some which shall be presently described. I am happy, however, to perpetuate the testimony of an ancient gentleman, whom shortly before his death I visited at Durston, and who kindly communicated his recollections of the place. He perfectly remembered the house belonging in his youth to the Lords Boringdon, which had been erected in the seventeenth century, with a noble hall of oak wainscot, "large enough to turn a coach and horses in." This he had himself helped to take down more than seventy years before. Adjacent to it was an ancient chapel with a bell-gable, which was used for Sacred Service and in which he had been baptised, which shared at the same time the fate of the house. He remembered to have seen several monuments, with figures of men, some of them bearing shields on their arms. There were, so far as he recollected, no figures of women; nor were there any ornaments, such as rings and the like, or money found during the alterations. Several hundred loads of stone were carted away, including some pieces of sculpture which were placed in a gentleman's garden at West Monkton. Thus much from my observant narrator. I was subsequently informed that the gentleman alluded to was in the habit of decorating his grounds with similar relics from various localities; so that, even if these objects yet exist, they could not be attributed to Buckland with any degree of certainty.

* Leland, Itin., Oxford, 1769, vol II., pp. 95, 96.

I have already said that the present appearance of the place gives very little indication of its ancient glories. Various fragments, indeed, of an older structure, as plinth mouldings and similar remains, are noticeable in the more ancient of the farm buildings, and there still exists a barn with some buttresses of the late Perpendicular period. Nothing, however, that I have ever noticed, connected with the structure itself, is necessarily earlier than the sixteenth century, and accordingly all that is now visible may have formed no part of the conventual edifices, but have been the work of the first intruders to accommodate the place to their own purposes. Apart from the Ponds, already described, there are nevertheless a few relics of monastic days, which I have had the happiness of bringing into notice. This has not been effected without some difficulty. On the occasion of repeated visits I had made many and strict enquiries of the labourers employed about the spot, and of the neighbours in general, as to the previous discovery or present existence of any ancient remains either of the buildings and their ornamental accessories, or of the instruments, utensils, or other evidences of the religious or domestic life of the olden possessors. For a long time I could obtain for my queries nothing but an uniform negative. At length one of a large body of farm servants set me upon the track of possessing myself of the rings of which mention has already been made, and eventually succeeded in recollecting that several large gravestones with illegible inscriptions had been dug up many years before—it was in 1836—from three to four feet under the surface of what is now the kitchen garden of the mansion. These after a long search I had at length the gratification of recovering. It is clear, from several previous notices,* that there were two Churches or Chapels

* See pp, 13, 53, 81, &c.

appropriated to the adjacent Societies, the greater belonging to the Prioress and her Sisters, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and S. Nicholas, the less in the possession of the Preceptor and his Brethren. In which of them the remains thus brought to light originally found a place, or whether in the church-yard also previously mentioned, it is now impossible to determine. The Priory Church, however, as I have already suggested, would appear to have been their exact locality. The most ancient was a portion of an incised slab, *(see the figure)* with a few Lombardic characters all but obliterated :—

ꝶꝺ·ꝑ * * * * * ꝺꝶꝺ:

The next was a fragment of the time of the fifteenth century, commencing with **Orate pro,** immediately after which came the envious fracture that prevented identification of it with the old worthy whose memory it was intended to immortalize. *(See the figure.)* Parts of four letters of a second line remained—**lond**—thus :—

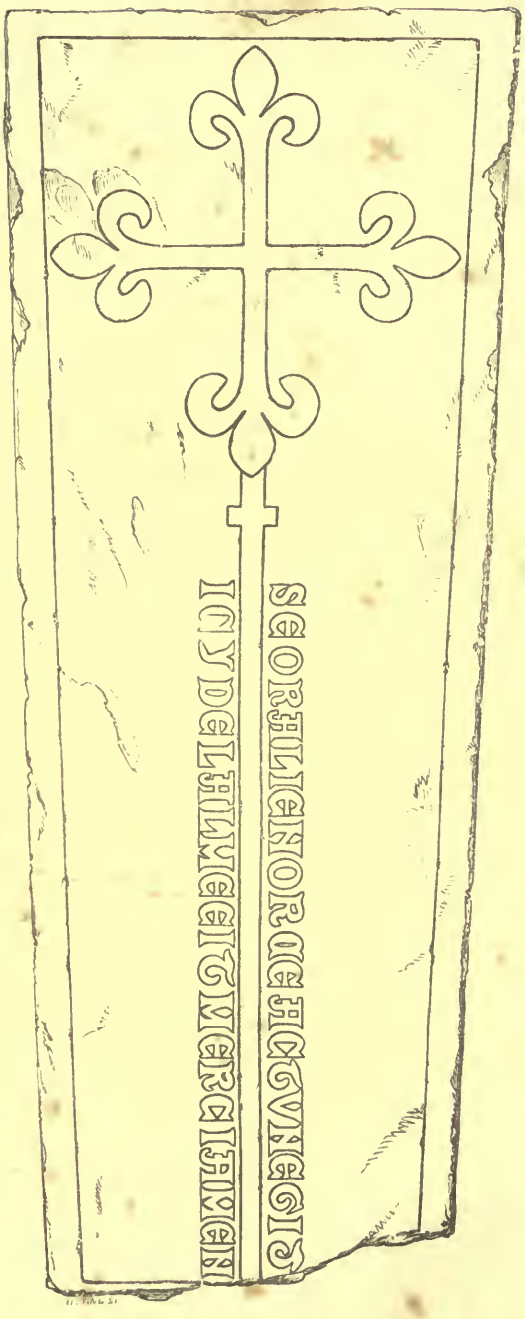
Orate pro
lond

A third fragment had joined the last described, and supplied in its first line the beginning of the mutilated word, while its last was evidently a portion of the well known formula :—

Scḣere
ꝑꝑicietur ꝺ

I was truly sorry to find on a late occasion that these interesting fragments had been broken up and used for building purposes since the period of my previous visit. Fortunately, however, I had secured rubbings from each of them. *(See the figures.)* There was yet another memorial, and that of a most affecting character. It was the only one which was found entire, and had accordingly been taken some care of and placed in a cider cellar. Nothing, however, was

T.H. ad lith. 1861. FROM MYNCHIN BUCKLAND PRIORY.



SEPULCHRAL SLAB

To the Memory of SISTER ALIENOR DE ACTUNE.

Mynchin Buckland Priory.

known of it, except that it was a ponderous, unmanageable stone, and that it had upon it a number of old letters which nobody could read. I duly obtained leave, most courteously accorded by the tenant of the mansion, to examine the mysterious relic; and, after transporting a range of brewing utensils which were marshalled upon it, perceived at length the object of my search covered with the dust that for the many years during which it had been untouched had collected on its surface. This was soon removed, and I was then most amply rewarded for my labour. The object brought to light was a noble incised slab, *(see the figure)* about six feet long by three feet broad, of thirteenth century work, in affectionate commemoration of, as I conjecture, a deceased Prioress. A very beautiful Lombardic cross occupied the centre, on either side of which was one line of the inscription, almost as sharply defined as when it left the hand of the old workman :—

SEDRALIENORDEACTUNEGIT
ICYDELALYEEITYERCIAYEN

"Sister Alienor de Actune lies here, on whose soul God have mercy. Amen." The epitaph is slightly abbreviated from the more usual formula, but the letters are remarkably fine, and the whole is of a truly artistic character. This, however, we may consider its least interesting peculiarity. It is eloquent of something higher than even Christian art, how noble and beautiful soever. Who Sister Alienor de Actune was, although this is not forgotten elsewhere, is now, I fear, beyond the power of the genealogist to discover for us and declare. Perhaps she was a kinswoman of the good Sir Richard de Acton, to whom so many of the Somersetshire Religious were indebted for valuable proofs of generosity and pious regard. This, however, is

mere conjecture. All earthly record of the connexion has departed. But this venerable tombstone, disinterred from its grave of centuries, has once more made the world acquainted with her name, and will now, doubtless, through her unworthy remembrancer, do so to a far wider extent than it ever transmitted it before. Such publicity will not now interfere with her repose. The object itself, too, which has at length furnished so graceful a memorial of her, is pre-eminently worthy of reverent mention. It is a silent and yet speaking witness of one who "did what she could" in her ancient day; who, perhaps with much to discourage and distress her, laboured and fainted not in her high resolve; and at length, when human toils were over, entered into that rest for which, it cannot be too much to imagine, her life in this sacred home was eminently instrumental in preparing her. Nor shall I, as I hope, be considered fanciful in suggesting that it may symbolize the System with which it was connected—long buried, and almost forgotten by the proud and self-sufficient of modern days—yet rich to luxuriance in lovely forms and holy thoughts for those who will reverently exhume it, and wipe away the dust which for ages of neglect has settled upon its surface, and trace, as they so well may, its distinguishing lines, telling at once of the Cross which was its centre, the union which was its strength, and the hope of final mercy which was alike its encouragement and its reward.

We will now take up the narrative from the point at which we left it.

By a deed, dated in the Chapter House at Bockeland, on the 10th of December, 26 Henry VIII., 1534, Katherine Burgchier,* Prioress of the House or Hospital of S. John

* See Note * page 7.

Baptist of Bockeland, in the County of Somerset, and Convent granted to John Popham, gentleman, and his executors and assigns, the first and next advowson, donation, nomination, presentation or free disposition of the parish Church of Tolor, in the County of Dorset, whenever by death, resignation, deprivation, cession, or any other mode of avoidance, it should first and next chance to be vacant ; the said advowson and presentation to be holden by the aforesaid John Popham and his executors and assigns for that one turn only. The Tolor estate, it will be perceived, is not mentioned by name in the "Valor" among the possessions of the Sisters, being probably included in that of Chyldcomb, of which in the Return of 1338 it is called a "limb." At the time of the present transaction, John Chenewey was vicar, and John Hodder was tenant farmer ; for, in a document to be presented subsequently, mention is made of a demise of the Manor and Rectory of Toller and Wynforde to a lessee of that name, by indenture bearing date the 11th of June, 1 Henry VIII., 1509, for the term of his life, at a yearly rent of xxij^{li}, to be paid on the feasts of S. Barnabas, and S. Nicholas, Bp., in equal portions; the repairs to be at the charge of the farmer, who was to be provided with sufficient timber from the wood of the Prioress there for that purpose.* The Court of Augmentations allowed to John Popham this grant of the next advowson, on the 20th of June, 36 Henry VIII., 1544.†

By another deed, dated in the Chapter House at Bokeland, on the last day of January, 27 Henry VIII., 1535-6, Katherine Boucher, Prioress of the House or Hospital

* Parts. for Grants, Hen. VIII., John Samweys.

† Orders and Decrees of the Court of Augmentations, vol XIV., 2nd Nos, ff. 38b., 39.

of Bokeland Sororum, and her Sisters granted an annuity of four pounds for life to John Tregunwell, doctor of laws, and one of the councillors of the most potent and dread king "prepotentissimi et metuendissimi regis" Henry VIII. It was to be paid in two equal portions ; on the feast of our Lord's Nativity, forty shillings ; and on that of S. John the Baptist, forty shillings; and was stated to be in consideration of his counsel in the affairs of the said House already and hereafter to be given. I fear that this must be considered in the light of a bribe, or at best as a retaining fee for services which the receiver never intended to render, rather than for any valuable return either past or future. It was doubtless considered prudent to conciliate, as other communities did, the good will of a man of known and acknowledged influence, who might be of use in the troublous days on which the Religious Societies instinctively felt themselves to be entering. If the annuity were left unpaid in part or in all for the space of three months after the feast on which it was due, the creditor had power to distrain on their lands in the County of Somerset, and the distress so taken to impark and retain, until the annuity aforesaid with arrears should be fully paid. This grant was allowed by the Court of Augmentations, with arrears from the time of the Dissolution, on the 11th of October, 31 Henry VIII., 1539.*

By another deed, dated in the Chapter House at Bokeland, on the 10th of the following September, 28 Henry VIII., 1536, Katerine Bourgchier, Prioress, etc., and Convent granted to Alexander Popham the office of Steward of their House or Hospital of Bokeland, with plenary power and authority in all matters appertaining thereunto, and also the profits and emoluments arising thencefrom, for the

* Orders and Decrees, vol. VI., ff. clxxxix, clxxxix b.

term of his life, together with an annuity of four pounds of good and lawful English money, and one livery gown of the value of twenty shillings, or twenty shillings for the purchase of the same. They also granted to him the office of Receiver of all and singular the rents of their lands and tenements in Shirborne, in the County of Dorset, the duties to be performed either by himself or by a sufficient deputy, and an annuity of thirteen shillings and four pence, to be paid at Michaelmas, for the term of his life. If these sums remained unpaid in part or in all for fifteen days, after the feast aforesaid, the said Alexander and his assigns were empowered to enter and distrain on their lands in the parish of Northepetherton, and to retain the distress, as aforesaid. The Court of Augmentations ordered the continuance of this annuity, with arrears from the Dissolution, on the 7th of November, 31 Henry VIII., 1539.*

By indenture, dated the 8th of January, 29 Henry VIII., 1537-8, the Prioress and Convent demised to Alexander Poppeham, and John and Robert his sons, the farm of their Manor of Kylmerston, with all the edifices, houses, lands, tenements, meadows, feeding grounds, pastures, underwoods, fisheries, commons, &c.; and the farm of their Rectory there, with the glebe lands and tithes of corn and hay to the same belonging; with the tithes of corn of xiiij acres of land in Stretton lese; together with all lands, tenements, rents, services, &c. in Rollyston, in the County of Wilts. The advowson of the Church of Kylmerston was excepted and reserved. The property was leased to the above for iiij^{xx} years, if they should live so long, and possession was to be had on the death, forfeiture, or surrender of John Bruche, the then tenant. The rent was xviij^{li} x^{s} a year, paid at the feasts of S. Philip and S.

* Orders and Decrees, vol. VI., ff. iiii^{xx}xiiij, iiii^{xx}xiiij b.

James, S. Laurence, and S. Michael, in equal portions. Repairs of the premises, and all other burdens, as well ordinary as extraordinary, to be always at the charge of the farmers.*

By another deed, dated in the Chapter House at Buckland, on the 1st of August, 30 Henry VIII., 1538, Katerine Bourgcher, Prioress, etc., and Convent granted to the same Alexander Popham, for good counsel and faithful service, an annuity of six pounds thirteen shillings and fourpence, issuing from all their lands and tenements in the parish of Northepetherton, to be paid in equal portions of xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d} each, at the feasts of S. Michael, Christmas, Easter, and S. John the Baptist, for the term of his life. After non-payment in part or in all for a month, he might enter and distrain on the lands in the parish of Northepetherton. This also, with arrears from the Dissolution, was ordered by the Court of Augmentations, on the same day as that of the previous order, the 7th of November, 31 Henry VIII., 1539.†

By another deed, dated in the Chapter House at Buckeland, on the 1st of August, 30 Henry VIII., 1538, Katerine Bourgheyr, Prioress, etc. and Convent granted to William Porteman, of Orchard, in the County of Somerset, gentleman, in return for good counsel already and thereafter to be given, an annuity of twenty six shillings and eightpence, issuing from their manor of Northpetherton, and from all their lands and tenements within that parish, to be paid at Michaelmas, for the term of his life. Here we have another instance of the extortions, by submission to which the Religious Houses were obliged to secure the favour of the powerful, and also of the gross venality which charac-

* Ministers' Accounts, 30—31 Hen. VIII., No. 128.
† Orders and Decrees, vol. VI., ff. iiii^{xx}xvj, iiii^{xx}xvj b.

terized those who could without shame appropriate such infamous gains. No wonder that these were the men who soon afterwards were the foremost to struggle for the spoil. Non-payment in part or in all for one month was to empower him to enter and distrain. This also was ordered to be continued for his life, together with arrears from the Dissolution, on the 4th of July, 31 Henry VIII., 1539.*

On the 2nd October, 30 Henry VIII., 1538, an Indenture under the Conventual seal was made between "Dame Kateryn Bourcher, Prioreſſe of the Houſe of Suſter Buckland, in the Countye of Somerset, and the Covent of the same Houſe, of the one partye, and John Popham, Gent., Cytizen & Haberdaſſher of London, of the other partye." This instrument, which, as the reader will have already perceived, is in English, and which is given almost verbatim in what follows, sets forth, that, after the payment by the said John of a sum of twenty marcs sterling, the Prioress and Convent demised, granted, and let to farm all their parsonage of Kirton, in the County of Lincoln, with all the glebe lands, and the tithings of corn, wool, and lambs, and all other profits and commodities of the said parsonage, the fourth sheaf paid to the lord Prior of S. John of Jerusalem in England always excepted and reserved. They also demised, granted, and let to farm to the same John Popham their parsonage of Donnyngton, in the said County of Lincoln, with all the glebe lands, tithings, and profits of all kinds appertaining thereunto, for a term of forty years from the feast of the Nativity of S. John the Baptist next coming after, at a rent of nine and thirty pounds sterling per annum, to be paid yearly at the feast of S. Barnaby the Apostle, that is to say, for Kyrton nine and twenty pounds, and for Don-

* Orders and Decrees, vol. X., ff. iiiᶜxxxiiij b, iijᶜxxxv.

nyington, ten pounds. It was further agreed to that the said John Popham should pay to the Vicar of Kyrton, every year at the feast of the Nativity of S. John the Baptist, the sum of four pounds seven shillings and seven pence during the term; the Prioress and Convent to pay, acquit, and discharge the tenant of all synodals and other charges ordinary and extraordinary due to the King and all other persons; and to maintain, sustain, and repair the said parsonages, and the houses, and walls to them belonging, at their own proper costs and charges. If the rent were not paid in part or in all for the space of a quarter of a year, the Prioress and Convent might re-enter and expulse the said John and his executors and assigns. This lease was allowed and confirmed by the Court of Augmentations, on the 6th of November, 31 Henry VIII., 1539.*

By indenture, dated the 4th of December, 30 Henry VIII., 1538, the Prioress and Convent demised to Alexander Poppeham, a portion of the tithes of corn and hay of Stondon Haye, in the parish of Northepederton, parcel of that Rectory, for a term of xl years, at an annual rent of xl^{s}, to be paid at the feast of S. Nicholas.†

The minute particularity with which these and previous details have been presented to the reader will not be considered out of place by any who desire to be acquainted with the state, habits and customs of ecclesiastical and civil England, as well as with the vicissitudes of this particular House, during the period of the Middle Ages. They know that with this very minuteness much of the value and interest of researches like the present are necessarily associated. And for such students, I may add,

* Orders and Decrees, vol. VI. ff. cviij, cviij b, cix.
† Ministers' Accounts, 30—31 Henry VIII., No. 128.

who love and treasure the memorials of those olden days, my labours are intended.

It would appear that the family of Popham was benefitted in no ordinary degree by its connexion with the Priory. By a deed dated in their Chapter House, the 18th of January, 30 Henry VIII., 1538-9, Katherine Bourcher, Prioress, and Convent granted to Marmaduke Popham the office of Receiver of all and singular the rents of their Rectories of Kyrton and Denendon, in the County of Lincoln, the duties to be performed either by himself or by a sufficient deputy, for the term of his life, with an annuity of forty shillings issuing from their lands and tenements at Premsleye, in the County of Dorset, to be paid at Michaelmas. On non-payment in part or in all for a month after date, he was empowered to enter and distrain on their lands in Premsleye, and the distress so taken to remove and keep until payment with arrears should be made. The Court of Augmentations ordered the continuance of this annuity, with arrears from the Dissolution, on the 8th of November, 31 Henry VIII., 1539.*

This was the last official act which the Prioress and her Sisters performed previous to that involuntary one which placed all similar transactions at once and for ever beyond their power. The final blow was just about to fall, and but a brief respite yet awaited them. A short month elapsed, and all was over.

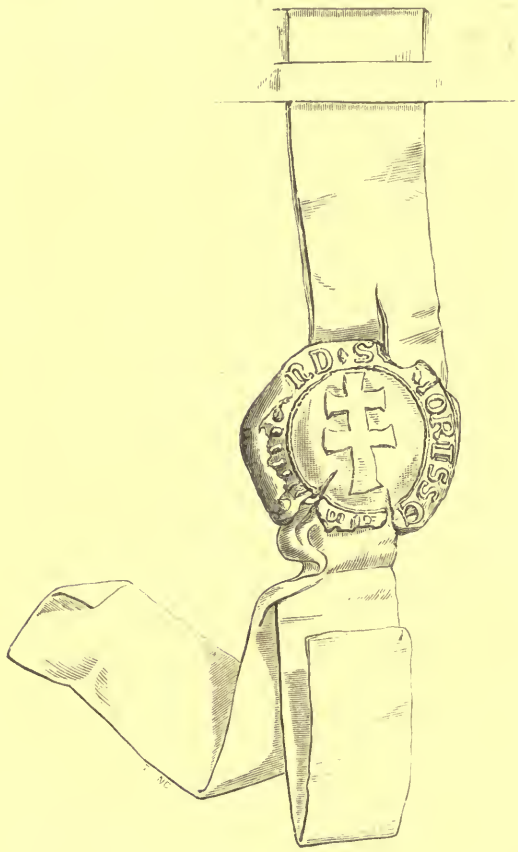
On the 10th of February, 1538-9, the Chapter House of Buckelonde was witness of the most melancholy scene that had ever been enacted within its walls. It was on that day that the Prioress and Convent were summoned to meet the Commissioners, John Tregonwell and William Peter,

* Orders and Decrees, vol. VI., f. 1.

and unwillingly affixed their Conventual seal to the instrument of Surrender.* This was the conclusion of so much that piety and refinement had laboured at and brought to perfection, a conclusion whereof it is difficult to speak as its monstrous enormity deserves. The document still exists in the Record Office, with the impression of the seal appended. In the brief notice of this House by the last editors of the *Monasticon*, it is said that an impression had been seen by one of them, but so wholly flattened that no part of the subject of it could be discovered. This, if intended for the present, which I have every reason to believe, as the document to which it is annexed was for many years in the custody of Mr. Caley, and was well known to him, hardly gives a fair description of its state. The legend, indeed, belies its name, for it is illegible; but the device in the centre is clearly that of a Patriarchal Cross, the form invariably used by the Hospital, in reference to its connexion with the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and to be seen on the bullæ of its official documents. *(See the illustration.)* The form of the instrument itself is the one which was generally adopted, prepared as usual beforehand, and requiring merely the insertion of the name and style of the doomed House, and the signatures and seal of the pillaged owners. In the case before us the signatures are wanting. It was, perhaps, too mournful a task and hard an effort for the unhappy Sisters to set their hands to a document which consigned them to everlasting exile from their ancient and beloved home. And, accordingly, the Commissioner John Tregonwell was fain to content himself with the subscription of his own name in the stead of other and better.†

* MS. Lansd. 97, f. 3b.
† Autograph. in Off. Record. Rymer, Fœd. XIV., p. 634.

COMMON SEAL OF MYNCHIN BUCKLAND PRIORY.



(Actual Size.)

From an Impression attached to the Deed of Surrender,
Preserved among the Records of the Court of Augmentations.

I am able to supply, from the unimpeachable authority of an original Pension List, the names and pensions of the entire Community who were witnesses of the ruin of their House. There were at the period of the Dissolution the Prioress and thirteen Sisters. Katheryn Bowser, Prioress, had a pension of l^{li} a year; Margaret Sydnam, subprioress, iiij^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}; Julyan Kendall, iiij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}; Jone Hyll, iiij^{li}; Anne Plummer, iiij^{li}; Tomysyn Huntyngton, iiij^{li}; Katheryn Popham, iiij^{li}; Anne Maunsell, iiij^{li}; Mary Dodyngton, iiij^{li}; Ales Emerforde, iiij^{li}; Jane Babyngton, iiij^{li}; Mary Mathew, iiij^{li}; Agnes Mathew, iiij^{li}; and Isabell Grene, iiij^{li}. There was also Sir William Mawdesley, confessor, and professed of their Order, who had a pension of iiij^{li}. The document is signed:—Jo. Tregonwell. William Petre.*

The Prioress, Katherine Bowser, had also a gratuity of xxv^{li}. By a deed identical in form with that given in the History of Canyngton, Appendix No. X., she was to have an annuity of fifty pounds sterling from the feast of the Annunciation last past for the term of her life, to be paid in equal portions at Michaelmas and Lady Day. And, further, a present sum of xxv^{li} sterling from the King's gift. The grant was dated, witness Sir Richard Rich, Knt., at Westminster, the 10th of May, 31 Henry VIII., 1539.†

In order to furnish all that we know of the subsequent history of these ladies, together with some notices of the officers and others, to whom, as we have already seen, orders were given for the continuance of their grants, I may add, first, that in the year 1556 there remained charged upon the government the stipend of Alexander Popham,

* Miscell. Books, Off. Aug. vol. 245, n. 128; and fol. 229 b. Appendix, No. XXII.

† Fuller's Church History, III., 459, 460.

chief steward, c^{s}; and annuities to—Alexander Popham, vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}; John Tregonwell, iiij^{li}; William Porteman, xxvj^{s} viij^{d}; and John Butler, xiij^{s} iiij^{d}. Besides these, there were pensions to the following of the surviving Sisters. The orthography varies from that already given, but the persons can be easily identified. Joan Hille, iiij^{li};* Thomasine Huntingdon, iiij^{li}; Katerine Pophame, iiij^{li}; Anne Maundefeld, iiij^{li}; Joan Bavington, iiij^{li}; Elisabeth Grene, iiij^{li}; and Agnes Mathewe, iiij^{li}. And to William Maudesley, clerk, iiij^{li}.†

It would appear that within two years afterwards this number was further diminished. The former inmates of the Dissolved Monasteries, as well as the Chantry Priests and Chaplains, who were pensioned in the manner already described, were still called upon to contribute to the Subsidy. In a certificate of Gilbert, Bishop of Bath and Wells, to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer, of all and singular pensionaries in the County of Somerset and Diocese of Bath and Wells, for the Subsidy due on the 25th of March, 4 and 5 Philip and Mary, 1558, dated the 20th of the following October, with a schedule of

* Not so much as a specimen of too frequent incorrectness, as of warning to those who perpetuate such by contenting themselves with simply copying the statements of others, I would mention the fate which this lady's name has undergone. The scribe who copied the list for Willis wrote it "Hylbere," and thus it appears in the "History of Abbeys." (Vol. ii. p. 196.) Collinson has of course reiterated the assertion. The name in the original record is "Hille;" and the syllable added by the copyists is the first word of the "per annum iiij^{li}" which follows! Bad as this is, a still more complete metamorphosis will be noticed immediately. Many readers may consider that these and similar blunders are matters of the most trifling consequence. They are instances however, which admit of too constant parallel; and the negligence which has given continuance to such errors is unworthy of the students of a branch of learning in which false statements are specially mischievous, and accuracy and exactness are of indispensible necessity.

† Card. Pole's Pension-book, f. xxix. Appendix No. XXIII.

their names and pensions annexed, occur, as connected with Bucklande, John Hilley, Thomas Huntington, and William Mawdesley, each with a pension of iiij^{li}, and contributing out of their pittance the heavy sum of viij^{s}.* In the John Hilley and Thomas Huntington of the return, blundered by the scribe who knew nothing either of the House or its olden possessors, we have the Joan Hille and Thomasine Huntingdon of the previous lists. The last Sisters of Mynchin Buckland were now reduced to two.

By a singular piece of good fortune, of which the history of no other Religious House that I know of can furnish an instance, we have thus had preserved for us the names of the first as well as the last Prioress and Sisters of Buckland —the former, when brought together at the beginning from various Houses into one Conventual home; the latter, both as they were at the evil day of their dispersion, and also when death had been busy among them after intervals of seventeen and nineteen years. What became of these last during that melancholy time, whither they betook themselves, and how they succeeded in bearing up under the anguish which memories of the happy past could scarcely fail to create, we know not. Nor can we gain more insight into their after fortunes. The notice just presented to the reader is the concluding glimpse that we get of them. In subsequent records they appear no more.

We must now turn to the real cause of the hard measure and undeserved brutality so mercilessly dealt out to these innocent sufferers. The main temptation to the aggression against their peace was the lands with which ancient liberality had endowed them, and after which an unscrupulous tyrant and greedy courtiers thirsted, even to the robbery, or if need were, the murder of their lawful owners.

* Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{126}$.

To illustrate the earliest condition of the property after it had been thus wrested from them and taken into the King's hands, I will furnish the reader with a translation of the Ministers' Accounts, or the Return made by the Crown Officers of the receipts and disbursements of all descriptions, and, accordingly, of the number, kind, and value of the various estates, then lately appropriated, with their farmers, tenants, &c. for the year ending at Michaelmas, 1539, the first, it will be remembered, after the Dissolution. To the information conveyed by this elaborate document all subsequent proceedings in the disposal of the property were referred, and to it the highest interest attaches as furnishing us with an exact picture of the possessions of the House at the period of the Dissolution. It will be found to supply a large amount of information which the "Valor" already given does not include, and deserves accordingly the most careful study of those for whom the locality and the subject have a charm, as they will search elsewhere in vain for the details thus transmitted.

The orginal record seems to modern eyes little less than obscurity itself, but this is to a great extent removed by adopting the form in which it is here presented, in which I have endeavoured to convey to the reader a notion at once of the style of the original, and of the particularity of detail in which it so happily abounds.

THE LATE PRIORY OF BUCKELOND.

Accounts of All and Singular Bailiffs, Farmers, Reeves, and other Accountable Ministers, of all and singular Demesnes, Manors, Lands, and Tenements, and other Possessions whatsovever, as well Spiritual as Temporal, to the same late Priory appertaining or belonging; Namely from the feast of S. Michael, the Archangel, in the year of King Henry VIII., by the grace of God, &c.

the xxx^th^, TO the same feast of S. Michael thence next following, in the year of the same King the xxxj^st^, to wit, for one whole year, as below,—that is to say :—

SITE OF THE LATE PRIORY there, with demesne lands and Rectory.

THE ACCOUNT of Edward Rogers, Esq., Farmer there.

ARREARS.—NONE, as it is the first Account of the Accountant to the King's use.

FARM OF SITE AFORESAID.

Farm of Site aforesaid, with demesne lands to the same pertaining; viz. :—Pleasure grounds, orchards, gardens, lands, meadows, feeding grounds, and pastures, called xiiij Acres, Newlonde, Purchez, Staplehays, Ryden, Robbys, Harys, Horlocke Mede, Hurt Mede, Longe Mede, & vj Acres Mede, with other their appurtenances, to the said Site pertaining, in the tenure and occupation of the said Accountant .. .. .. viij^li^ ij^s^ iiij^d^

Sum—viij^li^ ij^s^ iiij^d^.

FARM OF RECTORY.

Farm of tithes of corn, wool, lambs, and other small tithes to the said Rectory pertaining, in the tenure and occupation of the same Accountant .. xx^s^

Sum—xx^s^.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS—ix^li^ ij^s^ iiij^d^

FROM which :—

PENSIONS.

A pension of j Chaplain there, celebrating and serving the cure in the parish Church of S. Michael, as by allowance granted in the previous year, of lxvj^s^ viij^d^ per annum, beside his board, to be had

See the grant.

from the Prior of S. John of Jerusalem in London, in the Preceptory there, and beside xvj^{s} viij^{d} paid by the Receiver there for the term of Lady Day, viz. in allowance of such for the last half of this year .. .. .. xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}

Sum—xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}

DISCHARGE OF MONEY.

Discharged to the use of the late Abbess *(sic)* there, for the first half of this year ended at Lady Day, within the time of this Account, and by her received out of the Issues of the farm of the Demesne Lands and Rectory aforesaid, in the hands of the said late Prioress for the use and support of her late House during the same time; so that no profit accrues from thence to the use of our lord the King for the time aforesaid — iiij^{li} xiiij^{d}

DELIVERY OF MONEY.

Delivered by the aforesaid Accountant out of the Issues of the farm, demesne, and Rectory aforesaid, to Sir Thomas Arundell, Knt., Receiver of our lord the King, without bill but by his own recognizance on this Account — lxvij^{s} x^{d}

SUM TOTAL OF ALLOWANCES AND DELIVERIES AFORESAID ix^{li} ij iiij^{d}

HELE. THE ACCOUNT of Alexander Poppeham, Bailiff there.

ARREARS.—NONE, as it is his first Account, &c.

RENTS OF ASSIZE. Rent of j tenement, with appurtenances, in Radstocke, in the tenure of William Heyrder, paid at the four principal terms of the year .. .. .. vij^{s} x^{d} q.

„ ij „ Richard Smyth xvj^{s} x^{d} q.

„ j „ John Whitfild .. vij^{s} x^{d} q.

„ ij „ Jacoba Mayne .. xvj^{s}

„ ij „ Elias Som*er* .. xv^{s} x^{d} q.

„ j „ Robert Penholond ix^{s} q.

„ j „ William Tewe .. vij^{s} x^{d} q.

„ j „ John Downe .. vij^{s} x^{d} q.

„ ij „ John Seer .. xv^{s} ix^{d} q.

„ j „ Joan Osborn .. vij^{s} x^{d} q.

„ j „ & ij cott. Henry Pouncherd xij^{s} iij^{d}

„ j „ John Wyett .. iij^{s} ix^{d}

„ j „ Elias P*re*dyaxe vij^{s} x^{d} q.

„ ij „ Robert Kowman xx^{s} ij^{d} q.

„ j „ Bawdwin Jule vij^{s} x^{d} q.

„ iij cottages John Luppyngecote xj^{s}

„ ij „ John Bonde .. vij^{s}

„ j „ Thomas Somer v^{s} iiij^{d}

„ j „ The same .. ij^{s} iiij^{d}

„ ij tents. Oliver Bragge .. xviij^{s} vj^{d}

„ j „ Nicholas Grivvyll viij^{s} q.

„ j messuage Richard Launce xvij^{s} x^{d} ob.

„ j tent. Bawdwin Thomas ix^{s} iij^{d}

„ j „ Thomas Helye .. viij^{s} q.

„ j „ and j copse of viij acres, John Helrowe ix^{s} x^{d} q.

„ j „ William Atwyll vij^{s} x^{d} q.

„ ij „ Morice Avery xvj^{s} v^{d}
„ j „ John Bowyer vij^{s}
„ iiij acres of ground John Longe v^{s} viij^{d}
„ j tent. Richard Payne, vij^{s} x^{d} q.
„ j „ Heir of Thomas Heyt vij^{s}
„ j cottage John Roo .. xij^{d}
„ j tent. Nicholas Tayler vj^{s} viij^{d}

Sum—xvj^{li} xiiij^{d} ob.

FARM OF MANOR. Farm of Capital Messuage, with appurtenances, leased to John Goddislonde, by indenture, as it is asserted .. cvj^{s} viij^{d}

Rent of j tenement, with appurtenances, in Nottyston, leased to Joan Castell, by indenture, as it is said .. xx^{s}

Sum—vj^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}.

PERQUISITES OF THE COURT. Fine of Richard Somer .. xx^{s}
Fine of Richard Dame .. xl^{s}
Estrays .. .. .. xvij^{s}
Other perquisites, as by Rolls exhibited vij^{s} vij^{d}

Sum—iiij^{li} iiij^{s} viij^{d}.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS—xxvj^{li} xij^{s} vj^{d} ob.

FEES AND STIPENDS. Fee of Thomas Perde, Chief Steward, by letters patent under the Convent seal, as asserted .. .. .. xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

Stipend of the Auditor's Clerk, the writer of this account, as usually allowed to such officers .. .. .. ij^{s}

Sum—xv^{s} iiij^{d}.

EXPENCES OF STEWARD. Paid for the expences of the Steward of the Court there, holden this year viij^{s}

Sum—viij^{s}.

DISCHARGE OF MONEY. Discharged to the use of the aforesaid Prioress, and by her received, out of the Issues of the Manor aforesaid, for the term of Xtmas before the Dissolution of the said late Priory, together with lx^{s} of fines above charged in the title of Perquisites of the Court, by oath of the said Accountant } viij^{li} xvij^{s} j^{d}

DELIVERY OF MONEY. Delivered by the said Accountant out of the Issues of his office of this year to Sir Thomas Arundell, Knt., Receiver of our lord the King, [&c. as before.] } xvj^{li} xij^{s} j^{d} ob.

SUM OF ALLOWANCES AND DELIVERIES AFORESAID .. xxvj^{li} xij^{s} vj^{d} ob.

LANDS IN DIVERS VILLS; viz. in Wellys, Gotton, Bromptonraffe, Cadcote, Horewod, Aysshe, Thornfawcon, Brodewodewygg*er*, Toller and London.

The Account of Alexander Poppeham, Collector of Rents there, for the time aforesaid.

ARREARS.—NONE, as it is his first Account.

Sum—None.

RENTS OF ASSIZE IN WELLES.

Rent of j burgage, in the tenure of Thomas Dodery, paid at the iiij principal terms of the year .. .. xx^{s}
„ j „ Christopher Coke xx^{s}
„ j „ Lettice [Trystes] ix^{s}
Sum—xlix^{s}.

RENTS OF ASSIZE IN GOTTON.

Rent of j messuage there, in the tenure of Robert Warre, by indenture, as it is asserted, paid at the iiij principal terms of the year .. .. .. xl^{s}
„ j tent. William Hare .. xl^{s}
„ j „ The same .. v^{s}
„ j cottage Welthian Markes vj^{s}
Sum—iiij^{li} xj^{s}.

RENT IN BRYMTONRAFFE.

Rent of j messuage and of j mill there, in the tenure of John Ffacye, paid at the terms aforesaid .. xxiiij^{s} viij^{d}
Sum—xxiiij^{s} viij^{d}.

RENT IN CADECOTE.

Rent of j tenement there, amounting to ij^{s} iiij^{d}, late in the tenure of John Edwardes, but there are no returns, as it lay vacant and not occupied for the whole time of this Account, by oath of the said Accountant.
Sum—None.

RENT IN HOREWOD.

Chief rent from a mill .. xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Sum—xiij^{s} iiij^{d}.

RENTS IN AYSSHE AND TORNFAWCON.

Rent of x acres of land, in the tenure of Thomas Pyke, paid as aforesaid vj^{s} viij^{d}
„ j tent. Thomas Owesley viij^{s} vij^{d}
„ j „ William Holywod xiiij^{s}
„ xvj acres of land, the same vij^{s} vij^{d}
„ j cottage, Roger Hayne .. iij^{s} iiij^{d}

„ j tent. Richard Roke .. iij^{s} vij^{d}
„ j „ Thomas Monkerige iij^{s} ix^{d}
Sum—xlvij^{s} vj^{d}.

RENTS OF FREE TENANTS IN BRODEWODWIGER.

Free rent of Sir George Carewe, Knt., for his land in Brusshe parke, j^{d};

Of the heir of Thomas Upcote, for his land in Brenstone, iij^{d}, and Thorndowne, j^{d};

Of the heir of John Dynham, for his land in West Maton, paid at Michaelmas iij^{s} .. .. .. iij^{s} v^{d}

Free rent of John More, for j tenement in More .. .. .. ij^{s}

„ „ the same „ land and tenement in Hole .. .. ij^{s} viij^{d}

„ „ the same „ ij^{s} viij^{d}

„ „ of the heir of Robert Thorn, for a meadow called Fondeacre, near the water called Carie, paid yearly at the feast aforesaid .. .. j^{d}

Sum—x^{s} x^{d}.

RENTS OF ASSIZE IN BRODEWODWIGER.

Rent of ij tenements, in the tenure of John More, paid at the iiij principal terms of the year .. .. vij^{s} iiij^{d}

„ ij „ the same viij^{s} iiij^{d}

„ ij „ the same x^{s} iij^{d} ob.

„ certain land called Churchelande, the same .. vij^{d}

„ certain land, Berton, and Churchelond, in the tenure of John Hokeday xix^{s} xj^{d}

„ iij tenements .. ix^{s} xj^{d} ob.

„ ij „ .. .. vj^{s} vij^{d}

„ pasture .. .. .. xiiij^{d}

„ charged by account before it can be levied, ... ij^{d} ob.

Sum—lxiiij^{s} v^{d} ob.

FARM OF TOLLER. Farm of the Preceptory of Toller, with the Rectory there, leased to John Hodder, by indenture, as asserted, paid at the feasts of S. Nicholas and S. Barnabas xxij^{li}

Sum—xxij^{li}.

ANNUAL RENT OF S. JOHN OF JERUSALEM. A certain annual rent received from the Prior of S. John of Jerusalem in England, from ancient custom .. .. xxij^{li}

Sum—xxij^{li}.

PERQUISITES OF THE COURT. Fine of Joan Pyke .. iiij^{li}

„ „ John Mockage .. xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}

„ „ the same .. .. lxvj^{s} viij^{d} as by Rolls exhibited.

Sum—ix^{li}.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS—lxviij^{li} ix^{d} ob.

FROM WHICH :—

FEES AND STIPENDS. Fee of the Accountant himself, Collector of Rents there, and Collector of Pensions and Portions to the said late Priory belonging; NAMELY, in allowance of such his fee for the time of this account liij^{s} iiij^{d}

Stipend of the Auditor's Clerk, the writer of this account, [etc. as before] ij^{s}

Sum—lv^{s} iiij^{d}.

RESOLUTION OF RENT. *To be paid.* Rent resolute to the Bishop of Bath, for a chief rent from lands in Welles ix^{d}

Sum—ix^{d}.

EXPENCES OF STEWARD. Expences of Steward of the Court held this year .. .. .. ij^{s}

Sum—ij^{s}.

REPAIRS. Money paid for divers repairs of divers tenements in Welles, this year, very ruinous.. .. .. .. viij^{s} iiij^{d}

Sum—viij^{s} iiij^{d}

DISCHARGE OF MONEY. Discharged to the use of the above mentioned late Prioress, and by her received out of the issues, rents, and farm aforesaid, for the term of Christmas, before the time of the Dissolution of the said late Priory, with ix^{li} of the fines above charged in the title of Perquisites of the Court — xxiij^{li} ix^{s}

DELIVERY OF MONEY. Delivered to Sir Thomas Arundell, Knt., Receiver [etc. as before] — xix^{li} v^{s} iiij^{d} ob.

SUM TOTAL OF ALLOWANCES AND DELIVERIES AFORESAID xlvj^{li} ix^{d} ob.

AND HE OWES—xxij^{li}.

OVER. *To be discharged.* The Prior of S. John of Jerusalem, for a certain annuity or annual rent, due to the said late Priory, and as yet in arrear and unpaid — xxij^{li}

CHILCOMBE. THE ACCOUNT of Thomas Jesoph, Farmer there.

ARREARS.—NONE, as it is [etc. as before].

Sum—None.

FARM OF THE MANOR. Farm of the whole manor, with all messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, feeding

grounds, and pastures, with their appurtenances, (the advowson of the Church there only excepted) leased to the aforesaid Accountant, Joan his wife, and Walter and Henry their sons, for term of their life, by indenture dated the xjth day of January, in the xxjst year of Henry VIII., paid at the feasts of S. Barnabas and S. Nicholas, in equal portions; repairs of the premises and all other burdens and services to be borne by the said farmer, as in the indenture thereupon made is more fully contained .. .. .. xiiij^{li}

Sum—xiiij^{li}.

SUM TOTAL OF FARM AFORESAID—xiiij^{li}.

FROM WHICH :—

DISCHARGE OF MONEY. Discharged to the use of the abovesaid late Prioress, and by her received out of the issues of the farm aforesaid, for the first half of this year, due at the feast of S. Nicholas, within the time of this account vij^{li}

DELIVERY OF MONEY. Delivered to Sir Thomas Arundell, Knt., [&c. as before] .. .. vij^{li}

SUM OF ALLOWANCES AND DELIVERIES AFORESAID .. .. xiiij^{li}

MANOR OF NORTHPEDERTON. THE ACCOUNT of Richard Wakeham, Bailiff there.

ARREARS.—NONE, for reason aforesaid.

RENTS OF FREE TENANTS THERE.

Free rent of Sir William Pawlett, Knt., Lord S. John, for lands and tenements called Trippes place, paid yearly at Michaelmas xij^{d}

„ the same, for tenement called Squyers place, paid as before .. .. vj^{d}

„ the same „ „ Persons .. iiij^{d}

„ Roger Blewett„ Bygers broke v^{s}

„ Michael Mawlett iiij^{d}

„ heir of John Whytynge xij^{d} — xvj^{d}

„ Marmaduke Maunswell, for certain lands and tenements .. xvij^{s} vj^{d}

„ heir of John Cave ij^{s}

„ Edmond Heys ij^{s} — iiij^{s}

„ Richard Hogges ij^{s} vj^{d}

„ John Taunton ij^{s} vj^{d} — v^{s}

for lands and tenements, paid at the feast aforesaid

Sum—xxxiiij^{s} viij^{d}.

RENTS OF ASSIZE.

Rent of j tenement there, with appurtenances, in the tenure of Joan Skotte, paid at the iiij principal terms of the year .. .. v^{s}

Rent of j tenement in the tenure of John Woddrowe vj^{s} viij^{d}

„ iij acres of land „ Nicholas Byckenell iij^{s}

„ ij „ „ William Bulpayn ij^{s}

„ j tenement „ John Wylmot xv^{s}

„ j „ „ Ralph Brigge viij^{s}

„ iij acres of land „ Alexander Poppeham iij^{s}

„ j tenement „ Thomas Whitt xiiij^{s}

„ j acre of land „ John Musterd xij^{d}

„ ij acres of land „ Marmaduke Poppeham ij^{s}

„ j tenement „ Antony Holmys iiij^{s}

„ j „ „ Thomas Harle iij^{s}
„ j „ „ John Yewdall iij^{s}
„ j „ „ Henry Can ix^{s} ij^{d}
„ j cottage „ John Grove vij^{s}
„ j „ „ Joan Canne ij^{s} iiij^{d}
„ j „ „ Robert Hurlyn vj^{s}
„ j tenement & j water mill in the tenure of Elizabeth Speler xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}
„ j tenement „ Joan Decan iij^{s} iiij^{d}
„ j cottage „ John Spyrcle x^{s}
„ ij tenements „ Robert Aysshe xxxj^{s}
„ j „ „ John Axe xxviij^{s}
„ j „ „ Robert Dyble xv^{s}
„ j „ „ John Wev*er* xv^{s}
„ j „ „ Alexander Pole xvj^{s}
„ j „ „ Joan Stephyns vij^{s}
„ j „ „ John Hop*er* vij^{s}
„ ij acres of land „ Joan Trott ij^{s} iiij^{d}
„ j tenement „ Joan Goodwyn xxj^{s}
„ j „ „ Robert Ryve iij^{s} viij^{d}
„ j „ „ William Townysende xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}
„ certain land in Bromefilde v^{s}
„ „ „ „ John Harle iij^{s} iiij^{d}
„ j tenement „ John Hulett xvj^{s}
„ j „ „ Thomas Newman vj^{s} viij^{d}
„ j garden „ John Bulcombe xij^{d}
„ j cottage „ Robert Hulett iiij^{s}
„ j tenement „ Henry Slowcombe vj^{s}
„ j „ „ Robert Harrys xij^{s}
„ certain land „ Walter Bat iiij^{s}
„ ij acres of land „ Jacoba Howall ij^{s}

Sum—xix^{li} ij^{d}.

PERQUISITES OF THE COURT.

Fine of Robert Tayller .. liij^{s} iiij^{d}
„ John Musterd .. x^{s}
„ Margaret Yewdall c^{s}
„ Elizabeth Townysfyld viij^{li}
„ John Newman .. vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
„ John Kelle .. cvj^{s} viij^{d}
„ Thomas Harle .. xl^{s}
other Perquisites .. .. iij^{s} vj^{d}

Sum—xxx^{li} vj^{s} x^{d}.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS—lj^{li} xx^{d}.

FROM WHICH :—

FEES AND STIPENDS.

Fee of the Accounting Bailiff there, granted by letters patent under the Conventual Seal of the said late Priory, as it is asserted, per annum .. xx^{s}

Stipend of the Clerk of the Auditor, the writer [etc. as before]. .. ij^{s}

Fee of John Walton, Steward of the Court, granted by letters patent, as asserted .. .. .. xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

Sum—xxxv^{s} iiij^{d}.

EXPENCES OF STEWARD.

Expences of Steward this year viij^{s}

Sum—viij^{s}.

PENSION.

Money paid to a certain Chantry priest celebrating in the parish church there, from ancient foundation, vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d} per annum, granted to him and his successors by a certain composition between him and the late Prioress and Convent there, from the relation of Alexander Poppeham, formerly Receiver of the late Priory aforesaid .. .. vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

See composition.

Sum—vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}.

DISCHARGE OF MONEY. Discharged to the use of the abovesaid late Prioress, and by her received, out of the Issues of the aforesaid Manor, for the term of Christmas, with xxx^{li} ij^{s} iiij^{d} from the fines above charged in the title of Perquisites of the Court — xxxv^{li} iiij^{d}

DELIVERY OF MONEY. Delivered to Sir Thomas Arundell, Knt., Receiver [etc. as before]. — vij^{li} iiij^{s} viij^{d}

SUM OF ALLOWANCES AND DELIVERIES AFORESAID .. .. lj^{li} xx^{d}

PRYMSLEY. THE ACCOUNT of Alexander Poppeham, by Jarvace Aysshelcy, his deputy.

ARREARS.—NONE, as [etc. as before].

Sum—None.

RENTS OF THE FREE TENANTS THERE. Free rent of certain land in the tenure of John Strode, paid at Michaelmas v^{s}
„ „ John Baptym .. iiij^{d}
„ „ William Thonehill vj^{s}
paid at Easter and Michaelmas.

Sum—xj^{s} iiij^{d}.

RENTS OF ASSIZE. Rent of j tenement or barn, and of certain feeding lands in the tenure of Jervase Aysshe-ley, paid at the four more usual terms lxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}
„ j cottage „ the same .. v^{s} vj^{d}
„ certain lands „ Robert Keyllewaye xx^{s}
„ „ called Daunsynge hill
„ Richard Fforkes xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}

„ j tenement „ John Yonge .. x^{s}
„ j „ „ Robert Osmond*es* vj^{s} viij^{d}
„ j meadow with a garden „ the same iij^{s} viij^{d}
„ j tenement „ Joan Ruddell .. xiiij^{s} viij^{d}
„ certain land called Jordens
„ Thomas Wynnyf xvij^{s}
„ certain land „ John Dyer .. xij^{s}
„ j close of land called Shelf*es*
„ Peter Benet .. v^{s}
„ j close of pasture „ Thomas Myttyn viij^{s}
„ iiij acres of land „ William Mattyn xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
„ j close of pasture „ Elizabeth Mors ix^{s}
„ acre of meadow „ Joan Bertlet xij^{d}
„ certain land at Westbury „ William Wolffe xl^{s}

Sum—xiij^{li} xij^{s} vj^{d}.

PERQUISITES OF THE COURT. NONE, as no Courts were held this year, by oath of the said Accountant.

Sum—None.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS—xiiij^{li} iij^{s} x^{d}.

FROM WHICH :—

FEES AND STIPENDS. Fee of the Accounting Bailiff there, of xiij^{s} iiij^{d} a year, granted to him by letters patent under the Conventual Seal, as it is asserted .. .. .. xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

Stipend of Auditor's Clerk, [etc. as before .. .. .. ij^{s}

Fee of the decennier of Haydon, for the exercise of his office .. ij^{s}

Sum—xvij^{s} iiij^{d}.

RESOLUTION OF RENT. *Extinguished.* Rent Resolute to the Bishop of Salisbury for suits of Tenants at the Court of Shirborne .. .. .. ij^{s}

Sum—ij^{s}.

DISCHARGE OF MONEY. Discharged to the use of the abovesaid late Prioress, and by her received out of the Issues of the Manor aforesaid for Christmas term, before the Dissolution of the said late Priory, by oath of the said Accountant } lxviij^{s}

DELIVERY OF MONEY. Delivered to Sir Thomas Arundell, Knt., [etc. as before] .. ix^{li} xvj^{s} vj^{d}

SUM OF ALLOWANCES AND DELIVERIES AFORESAID .. .. xiiij^{li} iij^{s} x^{d}

MANOR OF KYLMERSTON. THE ACCOUNT of Alexander Poppeham, Farmer there.

ARREARS.—NONE, as [etc. as before.]

Sum—None.

FARM OF THE MANOR WITH RECTORY. Farm of the Manor there, with all the buildings, houses, lands, tenements, meadows, feeding grounds, pastures, underwoods, fisheries, waters, commons, to the same Manor pertaining, and of all the Rectory there, with glebe lands, tithes of corn and hay, to the same Rectory pertaining, with the tithes of corn of xiiij acres of land in Stretton lese, with all lands, tenements, commons, pastures, rents, reversions, and services, and their appurtenances in Rollyston, in the County of Wilts, the advowson of the Church of Kylm*er*ston only excepted, leased to the aforesaid Alexander, John, and Robert his sons for the term of iiij^{xx} years, if they shall live so long; (possession to be had immediately

after the death of John Bruche, or the forfeiture, or surrender, of the said John Bruche, if the said John shall surrender the said Manor and the rest of the premises into the hands of the late Prioress and Convent there within the feast of Easter, 29 Henry VIII.) paid at the feasts of S. Philip and S. James, S. Laurence, and S. Michael, in equal portions, by indenture dated the viijth of January, 29 Henry VIII.; repairs of the premises, and all other burdens as well ordinary as extraordinary always to be at the charge of the said farmer; namely of such farm for two feasts within the time of this account; with v^{s} lately paid to the Convent there beyond the rent specified in the indenture aforesaid .. .. .. xviij^{li} xv^{s}

Sum—xviij^{li} xv^{s}.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS—xviij^{li} xv^{s} paid to Sir Thomas Arundell, Knt., [etc. as before].

RECTORY OF BROMFYLD.

THE ACCOUNT of Joan Atwyll, Farmer there.

ARREARS.—NONE, cause as above.

FARM OF RECTORY.

Farm of Rectory, with tithes of corn, lands, oblations, obventions, and emoluments whatsoever, to the same Rectory pertaining, leased to the aforesaid Accountant and John her son, for the term of their life, by indenture dated the ijnd day of March, 25 Henry VIII., the stipend of j chaplain there celebrating and serving

cure in the parish church there always being at the charge of the said farmer, but the repairs of the premises with the chancel of the church always at the charge of the late Prioress and Convent; the roofing of the said chancel with tiles and the roofing of the other buildings with straw only excepted; paid at the feasts of the Annunciation and Assumption of Blessed Mary, as in the indenture thereupon made may more fully appear .. .. viij^{li} v^{s}

Sum—viij^{li} v^{s}.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS—viij^{li} v^{s}.

FROM WHICH :—

ALLOWANCE. To the Archdeacon of Taunton, for a certain rent called Churche rent, out of the Rectory aforesaid, as allowed in former years .. .. ij^{s}

OWING. viij^{li} iij^{s}, which he has paid to Sir Thomas Arundell, Knt., [etc. as before].

RECTORY OF NORTHEPEDERTON. THE ACCOUNT of John Worth, Gent. by Alex. Poppeham, his deputy, Farmer there.

ARREARS.—NONE, as [etc. as before].

Sum—None.

FARM OF RECTORY. Farm of Rectory aforesaid, with all tithes of grain and hay to the same Rectory pertaining, excepted always and wholly reserved the advowson of the vicarage of Northepetherton aforesaid, and a certain pension of xiij^{s} iiij^{d} a year; accruing and issuing from the vicarage of Pawlett; and a certain pension of liij^{s} iiij^{d}

a year from the vicarage of Northpetherton ; also a certain portion of the tithes of grain and hay from Stondon haye, in the parish of Northepetherton aforesaid, leased to the aforesaid Accountant from Michaelmas then next coming for a term of xxj years, by indenture of the King, under the seal of the Court of Augmentations, dated the vjth of July, 31 Henry VIII., paid at the feasts of Lady Day and Michaelmas ; all burdens whatsoever issuing from the aforesaid Rectory, besides the rents above reserved, to be at the charge of the aforesaid King, his heirs, or successors, during the term aforesaid

xxiiij^{li} x^{d}

Farm of a portion of tithes of corn and hay of Stondon Haye, in the parish aforesaid, parcel of the Rectory aforesaid, leased to Alexander Poppeham, for a term of xl years, by indenture dated the iiijth of December, 30 Henry VIII., paid at the feast of S. Nicholas, as by the same indenture, &c. .. .. .. xl^{s}

Sum—xxvj^{li} x^{d}.

PENSION. A certain annual pension accruing from the vicarage of Northepetherton, deducting xij^{d} for a certain garden charged in the Rental of Northepetherton, as appears in divers old accounts .. liij^{s} iiij^{d}

A certain annual pension from the vicarage of Pawlett .. .. xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

Sum—lxvj^{s} viij^{d}.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS—xxix^{li} vij^{s} vj^{d}.

FROM WHICH :—

PAYMENT OF PENSION.

Money paid to the Vicar of Northepetherton for a certain pension due to him, as for the price of vj waggon loads of hay, *See composition.* by virtue of a certain composition made between the late Prioress there and Robert Norris, Vicar of the said Church, dated the viijth of May, A.D. MCCCCLXVI. xv^{s}

Sum—xv^{s}.

RESOLUTION OF RENT.

Rent resolute to the Bishop of Bath ij^{s} iij^{d}

„ „ Archdeacon of Taunton, for sinodals and procurations, out of the Rectory aforesaid .. .. vij^{s} v^{d} ob.

Sum—ix^{s} viij^{d} ob.

DISCHARGE OF MONEY.

Discharged to the use of the abovesaid late Prioress, and by her received out of the Issues of the Rectory and pensions aforesaid, for the first half of this year ended at Lady Day within the time of this account, together with xl^{s} of the Issues of the farm of the portion of the corn and hay from Stonden haye, viz. for the term of S. Nicholas, Bp.; and with xiij^{s} iiij^{d} from a certain pension accruing from the vicarage of Northpetherton for the term of Christ- xiiij^{li} xij^{s} ix^{d}

mas before the Dissolution of the said late Priory, as by bill signed by the hand of the said late Prioress and restored

DELIVERY OF MONEY. Delivered to Sir Thomas Arundell, Knt., [etc.] .. .. xij^{li} xv^{s} viij^{d} ob.

SUM OF ALLOWANCES AND DELIVERIES AFORESAID .. .. xxviij^{li} xiij^{s} ij^{d}

AND HE OWES—xiij^{s} iiij^{d}.

OVER. *A process to issue.* The Vicar of Pawlett for his pension of this year, as yet in arrear and unpaid, forasmuch as he refuses to pay xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

RECTORY OF DONYNGTON AND KYRTON. THE ACCOUNT of Marmaduke Poppeham, Receiver there.

ARREARS.—NONE, as [etc. as before].

FARM OF RECTORY. Farm of Capital Mansion to the Rectory of Kyrton, with all tithes of corn and other profits to the same Rectory pertaining, leased to John Poppeham, of London, Merchant, by indenture, as it is said xxix^{li}

Rent of iij cottages, parcel of the Rectory aforesaid, leased to the aforesaid, by indenture aforesaid .. .. xxij^{s}

Farm of tithes of corn and hay of the Rectory of Donyngton aforesaid, leased as aforesaid .. .. .. x^{li}

Sum—xl^{li} ij^{s}.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS—xl^{li} ij^{s}.

FROM WHICH :—

FEES AND STIPENDS. Fee of the Accountant himself, Receiver there, by letters patent under the seal of the Convent there, as asserted, viz. as allowed in former years .. xl^{s}

Sum—xl^{s}.

REPAIRS. Repairs done both on the chancel of the Church, and on ij barns to the said Rectory pertaining, this year, as appears by bill exhibited herewith .. xxvj^{s} iiij^{d}

Sum—xxvj^{s} iiij^{d}.

DISCHARGE OF MONEY. Discharged to the use of the abovesaid late Prioress, and by her received out of the Issues of the Rectory aforesaid, for the term of Christmas before the Dissolution of the said late Priory } xix^{li} x^{s} iiij^{d}

DELIVERY OF MONEY. Delivered to Sir Thomas Arundell, Knt., Receiver [&c. as before]. } xvij^{li} v^{s} iiij^{d}

SUM OF ALLOWANCES AND DELIVERIES AFORESAID .. .. .. xl^{li} ij^{s}

PENSIONS PERTAINING TO THE LATE PRIORY THERE. THE ACCOUNT of Alexander Poppeham, Collector of pensions there.

ARREARS.—NONE.

PENSIONS. A certain Pension accruing from the Preceptory of Rayneham, in the County of Berks .. .. c^{s}

„ „ „ Swynfild, in the County of Kent .. .. xl^{s}

„ „ „ Kerbroke, in

the County of Northampton .. xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
„ „ „ Templecome, in the County of Somerset .. xxvj^{s} viij^{d}
„ „ the Rectory of Toland, in the County of Somerset .. ij^{s}
„ „ „ „ Bekyngton, in the County of Somerset .. xx^{s}
A certain Alms of the King, received from the Sheriff of Hereford, per annum, as by divers accounts exhibited vj^{li} xvj^{s} xj^{d}

Sum—xvj^{li} xviij^{s} xj^{d}.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS—xvj^{li} xviij^{s} xj^{d}.

Paid to Sir Thomas Arundell, Knt., [etc. as before]. .. .. .. xxij^{s}

AND HE OWES—xv^{li} xvj^{s} xj^{d}.

FROM WHENCE :—

A Process to issue. OVER.	The Prior of S. John of Jerusalem in England, for the Pensions aforesaid, of Rayneham, c^{s}, Swynefild, xl^{s}, Kerbroke, xiij^{s} iiij^{d}, and Templecombe, xxvj^{s} viij^{d}, being in arrear and unpaid this year	ix^{li}
A Process to issue.	The Sheriff of Hereford, for a certain Alms, granted by the King to the late Priory, to be paid yearly at Michaelmas, and as yet in arrear and unpaid	vj^{li} xvj^{s} xj^{d}*

We will now recur to the history of the Preceptory, which, in order to avoid confusion with the annals of the Sisterhood, I have omitted from the period of the Declara-

* Ministers' Accounts, 30—31 Hen. VIII. No. 128.

tion of the King's Supremacy. This will not long detain us, and we will then pursue to its close the narrative of the dispersion of the estates of each establishment, until sacrilege could appropriate and greed could absorb no more.

Henry Thornton, to whom, as we have already seen, the Preceptory and its Manors appurtenant were leased for a term of forty years in 1516, continued to hold the property until after the taking of the "Valor." In that Return the Preceptory appears in the following very summary form:—

SOMERSET.

Value in Preceptory of Buckland, leased to Henry Thornton, by indenture	xli	xjli xs*
Wood there growing in common years	xxxs	
In all		

Five years afterwards, for what cause I am not aware, the lease of Henry Thornton terminated. By indenture, dated the 24th of April, 31 Henry VIII., 1539, under their common seal, the Prior and his Brethren demised the Manor and Preceptory of Buckland, together with the Manor of Halse, and all other manors, lands, etc. whatsoever to them pertaining, to William Halley, for a term of fifty years, at a rent of xxxiiijli a year, to be paid at the feasts of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and S. Barnabas, in equal portions. All burdens and services whatsoever, as well ordinary as extraordinary, were to be always at the charge of the said farmer during the term aforesaid.†

Not thirteen months after the sealing of this agreement,

* Lib. Val. Lond. p. 43. Val. Eccl. vol. i. p. 404.
† Parts. for Grants, A. Popham, and W. Halley.

on the 7th of May, 1540, the Ascension Day of that year, the House shared the fate of similar Communities. The noble Prior, whom the base mind of the King thought to bend to his purposes by the grant of an unusually large pension, died on the very day that his beloved home was tyrannously seized from him,—"the House of his Hospital and of his earthly tabernacle," as Fuller puts it, "being dissolved both together—soul-smitten with sorrow, gold, though a great cordial, being not able to cure a broken heart."*

In the Ministers' Accounts, delivered to the Court of Augmentations by the Crown Officers for the year after the Dissolution, which not only furnished an exact and minute statement of the various sources of revenue accruing during that period to the King, but also supplied data for the subsequent disposal of the property, and which in this as in all other instances is incomparably superior to the "Valor" from the minuteness and particularity of its details, the Preceptory is thus returned :—

Account of all and Singular Bailiffs, Reeves, Farmers, Collectors, and other officers, &c. of all and singular Demesnes, manors, lands, tenements, and other possessions, as well temporal as spiritual, to the late Priory of S. John of Jerusalem in England pertaining or belonging ; viz. of the Issues and Revenues, &c., &c., from the feast of S. Michael, in the 31st of Henry VIII., to the same feast thence next following, in the 32nd year of the same King ; that is to say, for one whole year :—

Manor of Buckeland, in the County of Somerset.

The Account of William Hallye, farmer of our lord the King there.

* Church Hist. III., 459.

ARREARS.—NONE, for it is his first account.

Sum—None.

FARM. Farm of the Manor or late Preceptory of Buckland Priors in the County aforesaid, with all other manors, lands, tenements, meadows, feeding grounds, pastures, rents, reversions, and services, with their appurtenances in the same County, to the aforesaid late Preceptory or manor belonging; also with all and singular Courts, liberties, franchises, &c., and all tithes, oblations, obventions, &c., &c., to the same belonging. Also of the Manors of Bodmescombe and Cove, in the County of Devon, with all lands, &c. to the same belonging; WOODS, underwoods, advowsons of Churches and Chapels, wards, maritages, and reliefs only excepted and reserved; so demised by indenture, under the common seal of the late Prior and his cobrethren of S. John of Jerusalem in England, dated the xxiiijth of April, 31 Henry VIII., to William Halley and his assigns, for a term of fifty years thence next ensuing, at a yearly rent, to be paid at the feasts of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and S. Barnabas the Apostle, in equal portions, of xxxiiij^{li}, and x^{li} for the term of the life of Dame Anne Penyson, wife of William Penyson, Knt., and immediately after the decease of the aforesaid Dame Anne Penyson the said annuity of x^{li} to entirely cease and be determined. The aforesaid farmer and his assigns to find at their own proper

charges and expences three Chaplains to celebrate Divine Service; viz. two Chaplains in the churches of Durston and Buckland, in the County of Somerset, and one Chaplain in the chapel of Bodmescombe, in the County of Devon, during the term aforesaid. The aforesaid late Prior and his successors to acquit and defend the said William Halley, his executors and assigns, as well towards our lord the King and his heirs and successors, as for the payment of a certain annuity or pension of xxij^{li} hitherto paid to the late Prioress of Buckeland, during the same term. The aforesaid farmer and his successors to pay and support all burdens, ordinary and extraordinary, sinodals and procurations, due and issuing from the aforesaid manors, and whatsoever repairs of all chapels, chancels, houses, buildings, walls, hedges and ditches, to the aforesaid manor or Preceptory of Buckland pertaining, during the term aforesaid. Moreover the aforesaid farmer and his assigns to have and take, in and from the wood and underwood of the manor, sufficient housebote, ffyrebote, ploughbote, cartebotte, hedgebotte, harrowbote, and ffoldebote, to be used and expended within the said manor during the term; and with certain other agreements in the same indenture specified and declared .. .. .. xliiij^{li}

SUM OF THE FARM AFORESAID xliiij^{li}

OF WHICH he is discharged :—

For such moneys received by William

Weston, Knt., late Prior of the Priory aforesaid, from the aforesaid William Hallye, for his farm aforesaid, due at the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, before the time of the Dissolution of the said late Priory, falling within the time of this account .. .. .. xxij^{li}
AND HE OWES xxij^{li}, which he has paid to Maurice Dennys, Esq., Receiver General of all the lands and possessions of the late House or Priory of Clarkenwell of S. John of Jerusalem in England, out of the issues and profits of the same farm, due at the feast of S. Barnabas, Ap., after the time of the Dissolution of the said late Priory. SO THAT the same Maurice Dennys is to answer to our lord the King concerning the same sum of xxij^{li}, before Thomas Wrythesley and Ralph Sadler, Knts., Principal Secretaries of our lord the King, Commissioners there, hereunto by him assigned, as appeareth by the account of the Receiver himself declared before the same Secretaries.*

This brings the history of the Preceptory to the point which we have already reached in that of the Priory. I have now briefly to narrate the after fortunes of the estates, describe the alienation of the spoil, and show who were the richer for the transfer.

By indenture, dated the 6th of July, 31 Henry VIII., 1539, under the seal of the Court of Augmentations, was demised to John Worth, gent., the farm of the Rectory of Northepederton, with all tithes of corn and hay to

* Ministers' Accounts, 31—32 Hen. VIII. No. 114.

the same appertaining; the advowson of the vicarage of Northepetherton aforesaid excepted and wholly reserved; a certain pension of xiij^{s} iiij^{d} a year issuing from the vicarage of Pawlett, and a certain pension of liij^{s} iiij^{d} a year from the vicarage of Northpetherton; also a certain portion of the tithes of corn and hay from Stondon haye, in the same parish, amounting to xl^{s}. The lease was to commence from Michaelmas next ensuing, and to last for a term of twenty-one years. The annual rent was xxiiij^{li} x^{d}, to be paid at Lady Day and Michaelmas. All burdens whatsoever issuing from the Rectory aforesaid, besides the rents above reserved, to be at the charge of the King, his heirs or successors, during the term.* I may add that the lessee bequeathed the property to Margaret his wife. The lady subsequently married Edward Wolf, who was a party in a disreputable squabble with one John Newman in respect of a portion of the ill-gotten possession.† This was by no means an unfrequent fate of wealth similarly acquired, as the records of those days can abundantly show.

On the 27th of February, 1540, the King granted to the same John Worth an annual pension of £24 and 10d., issuing from the manor of Bucklond, formerly belonging to the late Monastery of Bucklond, lately dissolved.‡ We have also seen this John Worth in the character of Receiver of rents and pensions from Northepederton and Pawlett. He soon afterwards figures in a transaction far less creditable. It appears that he combined with his other duties the office of keeper of the park of Northpetherton.

* Ministers' Accounts, 30—31 Hen. VIII. No. 128. Miscell. Books Off. Augment. vol. 205, fol. 5.

† Plac. de Scacc. Mich. 10 et 11 Eliz. m. 25.

‡ Cart. Miscell. in Off. Rec. vol. 7, n. 28.

A petition to the King without date, but apparently of about the 33rd year of Henry VIII., has lately been discovered among the Miscellanea of the Exchequer, which "lamentably and in most piteous wise complaining sheweth" that many inhabitants of Northpetherton, Northnewton, Huntworth, Dunwere, Moreland, and Bankland, who had lands, meadows, and pastures bordering or near adjoining to the park, were much and variously injured by the keeper's proceedings. He is represented as guilty of most oppressive conduct, as accustomed out of a greedy and covetous mind to overstock the park by keeping during the summer five or six hundred head of cattle or horses; and is specifically accused of having enclosed a piece of the best and rankest growing ground of all the park, called Lent more, so that no deer can enter the same, but are compelled to feed upon the corn and grass of the petitioners, and of personal cruelty to themselves and their children. After a long list of grievances the petitioners conclude by praying that subpœnas may be issued to compel the keeper and his assistants to appear before the Council of the Star Chamber on a certain day, then and there to make answer to the premises. "And your said poor subjects according to their most bounden duty shall daily pray to God for your grace's long continuance."*

A Request to purchase the farm of the Manor and Rectory of Toller and Wynforde was made by John Samweys, dated the 23rd of February, 31 Henry VIII., 1539-40.† It soon afterwards took effect in the grant to the aforesaid John, of Wynterborne Martyn, in the County of Dorset, gent., for the sum of £409 15s., of all the Manor of Toller, alias Toller Fratrum, and the Rectory and

* Exchequer, Miscellanea of Receipt, $\frac{18}{9}$.

† Parts. for Grants, Hen. VIII., John Samweys.

Church of Toller and Wynford, with all their rights, members, and appurtenances, in the County of Dorset, lately belonging to the dissolved Monastery of Bukland, alias Mynchyn Bukland, in the County of Somerset. Added to which were the advowson, donation, and right of patronage of the vicarage of the parish Church of Toller and Wynford, and all messuages, glebe, tithes, oblations, knight's fees, &c., &c., to the aforesaid Manor and Rectory pertaining. Also the lands called the Sylke, in Wynterborne Martyn, in the tenure of the said John Samweys, and formerly belonging to the Priory of S. Martyn, in the County of Surrey. The property was to be held in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one knight's fee, and a yearly rent for the Manor and Rectory of Toller and Wynford of 44s. 4d., and for the land at Wynterborne of 15d., to be paid at Michaelmas, from the same feast last past. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Walden, the 22nd of March, 1539-40.*

To keep, as far as possible, to the chronological order, I may add that among those who compounded with the King for the first fruits of spiritual dignities, from the feast of Christmas, 32 Henry VIII., 1540, to the same feast in the following year, occurs Thomas Cox, who compounded for the vicarage of Halse, the tenth from which amounted to xj^{s} xj^{d} ob., on the 12th of February, 1540-1.†

The site of the Priory and the lands adjoining were leased in the first instance to the farmer already mentioned, a man named Edward Rogers, a minion of the court, by an instrument dated the 8th of February, 1541-2. The King demised to the said Edward Rogers, Esq., the House and site of the late Monastery of Bucklonde, in the

* Pat. 31 Hen. VIII., p. 4, m. (18) 37.

† Cler. Subs, $\frac{4}{122}$.

County of Somerset, together with all houses, buildings, barns, stables, dovecots, pleasure grounds, orchards, gardens, marshes, fisheries, land and soil, within the site, and pertaining to the same late Monastery. Also all the land and pasture called ffouretene acres, containing by estimation fourteen acres; all the land and pasture called Newlande, containing by estimation ten acres; all the land and pasture called Purches, containing by estimation twenty acres; all the land and pasture called Staple heys, containing by estimation twelve acres; all the land and pasture called Ryden, containing by estimation fifty acres; all the land and pasture called Lobbys, containing by estimation ten acres; all the land and pasture called Harys, containing by estimation twelve acres; all the meadow called Hurt mede, containing by estimation nine acres; all the meadow called Long mede, containing by estimation nine acres; and all the land, pasture, and meadow called Sixe acres, containing by estimation six acres, with all and singular their appurtenances, in Buklonde, appertaining to the said late Monastery, and commonly called the Demesne landes of the same. Also all the Rectory of Buklond, otherwise called Michael Churche, together with all tithes of corn and grain, and tithes of wool, lambs, and other small tithes to the same Rectory pertaining. Excepted always and wholly reserved all large trees and wood growing and being from and upon the premises, and all such buildings within the site and precinct of the said late Priory which the King might command hereafter to be thrown down and carried away. The aforesaid lands, &c., were to be held by the aforesaid Edward Rogers and his assigns from Michaelmas last past, for the term of twenty-one years thence next to follow and to be fully completed, at a yearly rent of nine pounds, two shillings, and

four pence, of lawful money of England, to be paid at Lady Day and Michaelmas, or within one month of either feast, to the Court of Augmentations, in equal portions, during the aforesaid term. The King further granted to the said Edward Rogers and his assigns release and acquittance against all persons from time to time of the pay and stipend of a Chaplain celebrating and serving cure in the Church of Bucklonde, alias Michaell Churche, and of all fees, pensions, portions, and payments whatsoever. The King was to repair, sustain, and maintain all houses and buildings of the premises in timber, lead, and stone only, from time to time, as often as there should be need; and the farmer to do all other necessary repairs, besides wood, lead, and stone aforesaid. The farmer was to have, by the assignment of the Supervisors and other Officers of the King, sufficient hedgebote, ffyerbote, ploughbote, foldebote, and cartebote, there and not elsewhere to be expended. Provided always, that if the aforesaid rent were in arrear and unpaid for the space of two months after any day of payment, limited above, and it were demanded in due manner, then the present demise should be held vacant and for naught. The agreement was dated at Westminster, the eighth of February, 33 Henry VIII., 1541-2.*

Some time elapsed before the bulk of the property was disposed of. A "Request to purchase" the site of the Priory, with the demesne lands, and the Rectory and tithes of Mighelchurch was submitted to the King, signed "W. Effex," and bearing date the 11th of March, 35th Henry VIII., 1543-4. To the enumeration of the various portions of the demesne, which have been already given in the Ministers' Accounts and the lease of Edward Rogers, and

* Miscell. Books, Off. Aug., vol. 214, ff. 33b, 34.

will presently be detailed in the grant, the Auditor, Mathew Coltehirste, whose duty it was to examine the terms of the Request, and to report upon any charges on the estates, appended the following note. — "What Co̅moditie the ffermer herof taketh aboue the annual Rent I knowe not. It'm the Kynges grace is charged w^t^ Cvj^s^ viij^d^ for the Stipend of a Preeſte serving Cure at Sainte Michaell Chapell being w^t^in a q^a^rter of a myle of the seid Scite. Where they wedde & Criſen & burith in the Churche Yarde of the seid late Pryory. & so is like to be charged. vnleſſe the seid Chapell be annexed to the Chapell of a Co̅moundry of Sainte Johnes adionyng to the seid Scite: there is no more landes w^t^in ij mylez perteynyng to the seid Priory. the Comaundry of Buclande percell of Sainte Jones adioneth to the same. Per Mathiam Coltehirſte Audit'." In the margin we are told that "The ſuperfluous howſys there where ſold to the ſaid ffermer [Edward Rogers] at the tyme of the diſſolucyon of the howſe." At the foot, in the autograph, I believe, of Sir Richard Rich, is the following note: "Yt ys nat declaryd by theſe pertyculers whether the Kyng haue any more landes adyoynyng vnto theſe demeanes or nat and therfor we do thynke good that ye do declare the ſame." This point was of course important in enabling the royal chapman to make the most of his bargain. The woods on the estate are reported as follows:—"Roden coppies conteyneth iij acres; Wynſell wood conteyneth vij acres; hedgerowes, growing by percelles aboute the demeanes cont' ij acres: Sum of acres—xij. Wherof ij acres of iij yeres growthe ij acres of iiij yeres growthe ij acres of v yeres growthe iij acres of vj yeres growthe and iij acres of vij yeres growthe not valuid but reſſruid to the fermo^r^ of the ſeyd demeanes for his fyerboote and hedgeboote w^ch^ he hath by Coven^a^nte. The

ſprynge of the wood or grounde of xij acres aforeſeyd not valuid bycauſe they be reſſruid. It'm aboute the ſcyte of the ſeyd late pryorye and in hedgis incloſinge the demeanes of the ſame be growinge CCC pollinge aſhes and elmys of lx lxxx and C yeres grow^{t} wherof C reſerued for the forſeyd fermo^{r} for tymber for houſeboote, to repayre the howſes ſtanding vppon the ſcyte of the ſeyd late *prio*rye, and for ploughboote and Carteboote for the forſeyd fermo^{r} w^{ch} he hath by Coven^{a}nte in the ſeyd wood*es* therfore not valuid, and CC reſydue valuid at viij^{d} the tree w^{ch} is in the holle vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d} P*er* me Will'm Cowp*er*.*

This was shortly afterwards followed by the instrument which the framers had in view. On the 30th of June, 1544, the King granted to his well-beloved and faithful cousin and councillor, William, Earl of Essex, and his well-beloved James Rokeby, Esq., William Ibgrabe, Esq., and John Cokke, Edward Rogers, and Edward Bury, Esqrs., and their heirs, &c., for the sum of £1049 11s. 2½d. of lawful money of England, the whole House and Site of the late Monastery of Buckland, in the County of Somerset, and all its lands, meadows, pastures and hereditaments, called or known by the name or names of Fouretene Acres, Newland, Purches, Stapleheys, Riden, Lobbis, Harys, Horlocke Meade, Hurte Meade, Longe Meade, and Sixe Acres Meade, with all their appurtenances, then or lately in the tenure or occupation of the said Edward Rogers or his assigns, in Bucklande or Buckland Sororum, parcel of the possessions of the said late Monastery, and formerly in the hands, culture, and proper occupation of the late Prioress of the late Monastery of Buckland at the time of the Dissolution. Also all those woods and lands called Riden Coppes and Wynsell Wood, containing by estimation ten acres, with

* Parts. for Grants, Off. Aug. W. Essex. Section 1.

all their appurtenances in Buckland. Also all the houses, buildings, barns, stables, dovecots, gardens, orchards, and lands whatsoever, within the site, sept, boundary, circuit, and precinct of the said late Monastery, and all and singular commons, ways, paths, easements, advantages, profits, and emoluments whatsoever in Buckland, Mighelchurche, and Northpetherton, in any manner appertaining. Also all the Rectory, and Church or Chapel of Mighelchurche, with its appurtenances; and all and every kind of tithes of green crops, corn, grain, hay, wool, lambs, and other small tithes, and oblations, obventions, and profits whatsoever in Mighelchurche and Buckland, in any way appertaining to the said Rectory, and Church or Chapel of Mighelchurche. All these were to be holden as fully and entirely as the last Prioress had held them. The aforesaid site, and lands, and properties of various descriptions were extended at the clear annual value of seventy-five shillings and eightpence. They were to be held of the King in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one knight's fee, and an annual rent of seven shillings and sevenpence sterling, to be paid at Michaelmas. The grantees were also to pay one hundred and six shillings and eightpence a year for the stipend of a curate to celebrate Divine Service in the Church or Chapel of Mighelchurche. Besides all this the grant conveyed enormous possessions in the parishes of S. Botolph, Aldersgate; S. John, Clerkenwell; and S. Sepulchre, in the City of London and County of Middlesex; and in the Counties of York, Northumberland, Derby, Stafford, Hertford, Wilts and Essex. The instrument was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, on the day and year above mentioned.*

* Orig. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 1, rot. xxxviij. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 2, mm. 34 (13), 33 (14), 32 (15), 31 (16). Leland, Itin., vol. II., p. 68. Appendix, No. XXIV.

After a Request to purchase, signed by William Portman and Alexander Popham, dated the 6th of July, 36 Henry VIII., 1544, and containing particulars connected with the property already given in the Ministers' Accounts, together with the additions to be offered immediately, the King, on the 13th of the following October, in consideration of the sum of £754 17s. 8d., of good and lawful English money, granted to William Porteman, his Sergeant-at-law, and Alexander Popham, Esq., and their heirs, &c., all the manor of Northpetherton, or Northpederton, with all and singular its rights, members, and appurtenances, formerly belonging to, and parcel of the possessions of, the late dissolved Priory of Buckland, and all the site, demesne lands, meadows, pastures, &c., of the said manor. Also the wood commonly called Barwoode, in Northpetherton, containing by estimation eight acres. Also all the messuages, lands, tenements, meadows and pastures, with their appurtenances, in Gotton, in the parish of Westemonketon, formerly belonging to the late Priory, in the tenure or occupation of Richard Warre, Esq., Robert Warre, William Hare, and Weltheane Merkes, widow. (In the Request to purchase, the woods in Gotton, Durligh, Gotehyrst, &c. are thus noticed :— "Where be growing about the ſcytuac'ons of the ſayd ten'tes, and in the hedges incloſing the landes perteyning to the ſame & other the landes aforſayd Dlxxx okes aſhes & elmes of lx & lxxx yeres growth, moſte parte vſually cropped and ſhred, wherof CClxxx reſeruyd to the ſayd tenantes for theyr houſboote and fyreboote, and for ſtakes for hedgeboote whiche they haue byn accuſtomed to haue in the ſame and CCC reſydue valuyd at vj^{d} the tree whiche is in the holle—vij^{li} x^{s}. Ex^{r} p' me Dauid Clayton.") Also all the messuages, tofts, houses, buildings, barns, stables,

dovecots, mills, pleasure grounds, orchards, gardens, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, woods, underwoods, waters, mill-heads, vivaries, weirs, fisheries, commons, wastes, &c., &c., with all knights' fees and other rights, in Northpetherton, Michelchurche, Bromefelde, Brympton Raiff, Wollavyngton, Mirelynche, and Gotton—as fully and entirely as Katerine Bourchier the last Prioress had held and enjoyed the said property. Also messuages, &c., in Ayshe and Thornfaucon, lately belonging to the said Priory. Also a tenement and messuage in the parish of Bromefeld, formerly belonging to the lately dissolved Priory of Taunton, in the occupation of one Richard Raynald. Also another tenement and messuage in Bromefeld, in the tenure and occupation of one John Pylman, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. Also lands in Kyngeshyll, in the parish of Spaxton, also formerly belonging to the late dissolved Priory of Tawnton. Also all the manor, farm, and grange of Claveshey, with its appurtenances, in the parishes of Northepetherton and Bromfeld; and the capital messuage, house, site, and capital mansion of Claveshey, formerly belonging to the lately dissolved monastery of Athelney; and the wood commonly called Chalveshey Wood, containing by estimation ten acres, and the wood called Holesey Wood, containing by estimation five acres, in Northepetherton aforesaid, formerly belonging to the late monastery of Athelney. Also all and singular houses, messuages, tofts, buildings, &c., &c., to the said manor, farm, or grange aforesaid in any way belonging. Also messuages, &c., at Durlegh, Gotehirst, Dunwer, &c., in the parishes of Bridgewater and Northepetherton, formerly belonging to the Priory of S. John, at Bridgewater. The property formerly belonging to the Priory of Buckland in Buckland, Northpetherton, Michelchurch, Brome-

felde, Gotton, etc., was estimated at the clear annual value of £23 17s. 4d.; in Ayshe and Thornefaucon, of 47s. 6d.; at Bromefeld and Spaxton, of 41s. 8d.; at Claveshey, of £9; at Durleigh and Gotehirst, of 33s.; and at Dunwer, of 14s. 6d.; tithe not deducted. All advowsons and donations of Churches and Chapels were reserved. The lands were to be held in chief, by knight service, viz. a thirtieth part of one knight's fee; and the grantees were to pay the following annual rents:—for the property at Northepetherton, 38s.; for Gotton, 9s. 1½d.; for Ayshe and Thornfaucon, 4s. 9d.; for Bromefeld and Spaxton, 4s. 2d.; for Claveshey, 18s.; for Durlegh and Gotehirst, 3s. 4d.; and for Dunwer, 17½d. to be paid each year at Michaelmas. Also to Richard Wakeham, Bailiff of the manor of Northepetherton, an annual fee of 20s.; and to John Walton, Steward of the Court of the said manor, 13s. 4d. The grant was to take effect from the Lady Day last past, and was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 13th of October, 36 Henry VIII., 1544.*

A subsidy of one tenth was granted in the 34th and 35th years of Henry VIII., from the account of which, by William, Bishop of Bath and Wells, a deduction of xij^{s} had to be made, inasmuch as a chantry at Northepetherton, in the deanery of Brydgewater, of which John Langdon was the late Incumbent, and from which the aforesaid sum was due at Christmas, 36 Henry VIII., 1544, was at that time in the King's hands, as parcel of the lands and possessions of the late Prioress of Buckland, by reason whereof nothing could thence be levied for the subsidy aforesaid.†

* Parts. for Grants, Off. Aug. Orig. 36 Henry VIII., p. 3, rot. xij. Pat. 36 Hen, VIII., p. 8. mm. 29 (23), 28 (24), 27 (25), 26 (26). Add. MS. B.M. 6366, pp. 28 b, 29. Appendix, No. XXV.

† Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{123}$.

We have already seen the disposal of the Priory, and have now to notice that of the Preceptory, which was not long delayed. The Request to purchase, signed by Alexander Popham and William Halley, to the latter of whom the property, as we have seen, was already demised, is dated the 13th of December, 1544, and gives the following particulars of the lands. The farm of the Manor of the late Preceptory is stated as of the value of xxxiiij^{li} per annum. The vicarage of Halse is reported, by certificate of Thomas Argall, as worth per annum in demesne lands, xx^{d}; predial tithes, xxj^{s} xj^{d} ob.; tithes of wool and lambs, xlviij^{s} iij^{d} ob.; oblations with personal tithes, xlviij^{s} j^{d}; minus vj^{d} ob., paid to the Bishop of Bath for procurations; remaining clear, cxix^{s} v^{d} ob.; and the tenth from the same, xj^{s} xj^{d} ob. The Rectory of Hethefeld is returned, by the same, as worth in demesne lands, iiij^{li}; in predial tithes, iiij^{li}; tithes of wool and lambs, x^{s}; oblations with personal tithes, xxxiiij^{s}; minus an annual pension of xviij^{s} to the Prior of S. John of Jerusalem; and iiij^{s} vj^{d} to the Archdeacon of Tawnton for sinodals; remaining clear ix^{li} xviij^{d}; and the tenth from the same, xviij^{s} ij^{d}. Wynsell grove is returned as containing iiij acres; Peryfelde grove, iiij acres; Bowyers grove, with vj acres of waste, xij acres; and Bodmescombe wood, with x acres of waste, xxxv acres. "And aboute the ſcytuac'ons of the ſeyd late commaundery manor^{s} and xix Tenement*es* there and in the hedg*es* incloſing the land*es* p*er*teyning to the ſame and dyuers other land*es* there DCCCC ok*es* aſhes & elmes of lx & lxxx yeres grow^{t} moſte p*ar*te vſually cropped and ſhrodd wherof CCC reſeruid to the ſeyd ffermo^{r} for his houſeboote," &c. "and DC reſydue valuid at iij^{d} the tree, w^{ch} is in the holle vij^{li} x^{s}. Ex^{r}. p' me Dauid Clayton." William Rygges, Auditor,

annexed to the enumeration of the property thus solicited the significant and not unusual declaration, "I knowe no other p*er*ſon deſyrous to bie the same but the ffermo^{r} hereof."* This was doubtless intended to assure the royal salesman that the bargain was the best that could be effected under the circumstances. On the 16th of February, 1544-5, the purchase was completed. The King then granted to Alexander Popham, Esquire, and William Halley, gentleman, and their heirs, &c., in consideration of the sum of £999 16s. 7d. of lawful English money, all the manor and late Preceptory of Buckelond Priours, in the County of Somerset, together with the manor of Halse, and all other manors, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, rents, reversions, services, and other hereditaments whatsoever, appertaining to the said late Preceptory, with all its other members and appurtenances, then or lately in the tenure, demise, or occupation of the aforesaid William Halley. Also the Rectory and impropriated Church of Halse, and all and singular other Rectories and impropriated Churches appertaining to the said Preceptory; and all glebes, tithes, pensions, portions, oblations, obventions, fruits, advantages, profits, emoluments, and hereditaments whatsoever, as well spiritual as temporal, of every kind. Also the advowsons and rights of patronage of the Rectories aforesaid. Also the two manors of Bodmescombe and Cove, in the County of Devon, with all their appurtenances. Also the manor of Cleyanger, in the County of Devon, parcel of the Preceptory of Templecombe. Also the advowsons, donations, presentations, &c., of the Church and Rectory of Hethefelde, and of the Church and Rectory of Halse, in the County of Somerset; and of the Rectories and Churches of Brendon and Cleyanger, in the County of Devon. Also the wood

* Parts. for Grants, Off. Aug.

and grove called Wynsell Grove, containing by estimation four acres; and the wood and grove called Perifeld Grove, containing by estimation four acres; and the grove called Bowyeres Grove, containing by estimation twelve acres of wood and waste; and the wood and waste called Bodmescombe Wood, containing by estimation thirty-five acres; and twelve acres, sixteen acres, and twenty-seven acres, called Uprynges of Wood; all parcels of the late Preceptory of Buckelond Priours. Also a messuage, &c., in the parishes of Gotehurste and Charlinche, formerly belonging to the late Priory or Hospital of S. John of Brydgewater. Also the demesne and manor of Thurlebare; the messuage, &c., called Playstrete, and lands, meadows, &c., in the parish of Staple; a rent of twenty-four shillings and ninepence half-penny, called The Thurchettz,* issuing from certain lands and tenements in Thurlebare; one close containing one acre lying at Thurleaysshe, and one close under the Wood, containing by estimation seven acres; a close called The Priours Wood, in Thurlebare, containing by estimation thirteen acres; and lands in Westhatche and Uppeatche; all formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. Also the manor and demesne of Tobrydge, with all its lands, tenements, &c., rights, &c., in the parish of S. James by Taunton, and formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. All these were to be holden by the grantees as fully, entirely, and amply, as by their former possessors. The manor and late Preceptory of Buckeland Priours together with the manor of Halse, &c., were of the clear annual value of £31 19s. 2d., without deducting the reserved tithe; the vicarage of Halse of the clear annual

* Probably intended for Churchetts, or Churchessets, a payment to the Church of corn as the First-fruits of harvest. See, for another instance, the Author's History of Taunton Priory, page 119.

value of £5 19s. 5½d., without deducting the reserved tithe; and the Rectory of Hethefelde, £9 11d., without deducting tithe. The Preceptory of Buckelond Pryours and the manor of Halse were to be held of the King in chief, by knight service, to wit, by the twentieth part of one knight's fee, and the following annual rents, to be paid at Michaelmas :— for Buckelond and Halse, £3 3s. 11d.; for Tobrydge, 10s. 7d.; for Cleyanger, &c., 10s. 2d.; and for Thurlebare, &c., 14s. 5d. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 16th of February, 36 Hen. VIII., 1544-5.*

Many of the lands above mentioned still retain their ancient appellations. "Coglett" I have already noticed, and others yet remain in "Newlands," "Long Meadow," "Perrifield," "Winsalls," etc.

The reserved rent of sixty-three shillings and eleven pence was subsequently sold by Edward VI., to James Bysse, of Stoke lane, and John Bysse, of Pensforde; together with a large amount of other property in various Counties, including the site of the late Priory or cell of Byrcle or Sprawlesmeade, and lands belonging to the same; houses in Bridgwater, formerly belonging to various Chantries there; a portion of the tithes of Mychelborough, formerly belonging to Athelney Abbey; a tenement or burgage in Langporte, in the tenure of Michael Porter, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton; fifteen acres of land at Battecombe, in the tenure of Robert Tufwayst, of Aysshymby, and afterwards demised to Roger Dele, of London; an annual rent of three shillings, one penny, one halfpenny, and one farthing, issuing from lands and tenements in Battecombe, formerly belonging to the

* Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 8, rot. xvij. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 26, mm. 44 (6), 43 (7), 42 (8). Add. MS, B.M. 6366, p. 116. Appendix, No. XXVI.

late Priory of Taunton, and reserved by the King in his patent to Thomas Aysshe and his heirs, dated the 14th of June, 35 Henry VIII., 1543; and land given for the support of a priest celebrating in the parish Church of S. Edmund, in the City of Exeter. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 29th of May, 1553.*

The more distant portions of the property were disposed of in a similar manner.

On the 18th of July, 1543, in consideration of the sum of £1451 2s. 9¼d., the King granted to Sir John Horsey the manor of Prymsley, or Promsley, in the County of Dorset, with all its rights, members, and appurtenances, formerly belonging to the late dissolved Priory of Buckelande, in the County of Somerset. Together with this were granted lands at Thornford, Overcompton, and Nethercompton, and at Pynford, in the parish of Shirborne, and belonging to the Monastery of that place. Prymsley was estimated at the clear annual value of £14 17s. 2d. The lands were to be held of the King in chief, by the service of a fortieth part of one knight's fee, and the annual rent of 29s. 9d., paid at Michaelmas. The grantee was exonerated from all payments, except the annual fee of the Bailiff of the Manor, amounting to the sum of 13s. 4d. The Request to purchase, with the usual notice by Matthew Coltehirste, was dated the 5th of June, 1543; and the grant, witness the King, at Terlyng, on the day above mentioned.†

One month after a Request to purchase, dated the 6th of July, 35 Henry VIII., 1543, and containing the usual

* Pat. 7 Edw. VI., p. 10, mm. 7, 8, 9, 10.

† Parts. for Grants, in Off. Aug. Orig. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 2, rot. iiij. Pat. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 6, mm. (1) 38, (2) 37.

notices by Matthew Coltehirste that the premises did not adjoin or lie near to any of the King's Majesty's houses, forests, parks, &c., and that he had no other lands there belonging to Buckland, with other particulars already given in the Ministers' Accounts, the King granted to Richard Parker, of Tawstok, in the County of Devon, gentleman, for the sum of £1436 7s. 10d., the Rectories of Bradforde and Hilfaraunce, in the County of Somerset, formerly belonging to the Priory of Barlyche; the demesne and manor of Pixton, and Nynehed, formerly belonging to the Priory of Taunton; the manor of Moremaleherb in the parish of Brodewodwiger, in Devon, formerly belonging to and parcel of the late Priory of Mynchynbuklande, in the County of Somerset; the Rectory of Northemolton, and lands at Lynkcombe, Hilfarcombe, and Wykelangforde, &c., formerly belonging to the late Monasteries of Dunkeswell and Frythelstoke, in the County of Devon. Bradforde and Hilfaraunce were of the clear annual value of £16 4s. 6d.; Pixton and Nynehed of £15 15s.; Lynkcombe and Hilfarcombe of £12 7s. 0½d.; Northemolton of £16; and Moremaleherbe of £3 15s. 3½d. The advowsons of the Churches were reserved. The property was to be held in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one knight's fee, and the following annual rents to be paid at Michaelmas:—for Bradfordeand Hilfaraunce, 32s. 5½d.; for Pixton, &c., 31s. 6d.; for Lynkcombe, 24s. 8½d.; for Northmolton, 32s.; and for Moremaleherbe, 7s. 6½d. Besides these charges, the grantees were to pay annually for the stipend of the Curate of Hylfaraunce a sum of 26s. 8d.; for procurations and synodals for the Church of Bradford, a sum of 12s. 5½d.; to the Bailiff of the Manor of Lynkcombe, his fee of 13s. 4d.; to the Vicar of Northemolton, £17 6s. 8d.; and, lastly, the sum of 66s. 8d., for the said Rec-

tory of Northemolton, to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of S. Peter at Exon. The grant was to take effect from the feast of the Annunciation last past, and was dated, witness the King, at Rayne, the 6th of August, 1543.*

A Request to purchase from Sir John Ffulford, Knt., was dated the 12th of March, 1544, and presented shortly afterwards. To it Matthew Coltehirste, the Auditor, appended the following note: "What ffynes where gyvyn or wilbe gyvyn for the premyſſys I knowe nat. Alſo it is percell of the mane^r of Northepetherton beinge of the yerely value of xxj^li. Parke fforeſt Chache or other Capitall mancyon place wherunto the Kynges grace hathe acceſſe at any tyme is none adioynynge to my knoweleage. Alſo I haue made perticlers hereof to noe other parſon. What woodes growithe vpon the premyſſes the Surveyour therof can certifie." To this is added in another hand, "It lyeth by the parke of Northepetherton." The woods are thus returned by William Cowper:—"There be growing aboute the ſcytuac'ons of ij ten'tes there & in the hedgis incloſing the landes perteyning to the ſame and other the landes aforſeyd clx okes and elmes of lx & lxxx yeres grow^t moſte parte vſually cropped and ſhred wherof lxxx reſeruyd to the ſeyd ten^antes for their houſeboote & hedgeboote w^ch they haue byn accuſtomed to haue there & lxxx reſydue valuid at iiij^d the tree w^ch is in the holle—xxvj^s viij^d.

On the 11th of June, 1544, the King, in agreement herewith, granted to Sir John Ffulford, Knt., Humfrey Colles, Esquire, and their heirs, three tenements with their

* Parts. for Grants, in Off. Aug. Misc. Books, Off. Aug. vol. 194, n. 50. Orig. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 1, rot. cxvij. Pat. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 5, mm. 12 (26), 11 (27), 10 (28). Add. MS. B.M. 6365, p. 297.

appurtenances, parcel of the Manor of Northpetherton, in the parish of Bromfylde, in the tenure or occupation of Robert Stalyche, John Harle, and John Hewlett, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Bukeland. Also a horse mill, and a moiety of a close called Newe Close, and five acres of meadow with their appurtenances in Rysmore, in the County of Somerset, in the occupation of John Grene and Joan his wife, and formerly belonging to the late Hospital of S. John of Bridgewater. Lands in Devon, formerly belonging to the late Monasteries of Canonleigh, S. Nicholas in Exon, and Bukfast, in that County, and of Mountague and Clyve, in the County of Somerset, accompanied the aforesaid, and the purchase money amounted to the sum of £1199 18s. 3d. The property belonging to Buklande was estimated at the clear yearly value of 24s. 4d., the tithe not deducted; and that belonging to S. John of Bridgewater to £4, the tithe also not deducted. The lands were to be held in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one knight's fee, and the grantees were to pay, at Michaelmas, for the Bridgewater property the yearly rent of 8s.; and for that at Bromfeld 2s. 5¼d. The Request to purchase was dated the 12th of March, 1544; and the grant at Westminster on the day aforesaid.*

On the 26th of July, 1544, (after a Request dated the 10th of the same month, and with the following note appended:—It is a quyllett of hit ſelf & p*ar*cell of no Mano^r ferme or gr^a^unge. ferdermore the p*er*ticlers herof was delyu*er*d by M^r. Chauncelors warr^a^unte to David Clayton ſeru^a^nte to M^r. Cowp*er*, Surveyo^r of the woode*s*.") the King granted to Roger Taverner, gent. and Robert Taverner, gent., two tenements and a mill called Elsam

* Parts. for Grants. in Off. Aug. Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 4, rot. clxvj. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 12, mm. 5 (35), 4 (36), 3 (37).

Myll, and certain lands and tenements called Stone Landes, situated in Brompton Raffe, in the County of Somerset, with all their appurtenances, in the tenure or occupation of John Edwardes, and formerly belonging to the late dissolved Priory of Buckelande, in the said County. The annual payment was 24s. 8d.; and the property was to be held in common socage, by fealty only, and not in chief, and by a yearly payment, at Michaelmas, under the name of tithe, of 2s. 6d. This was accompanied by large estates in London, and the Counties of Northampton, Lincoln, and York, and the amount paid for the whole was £546 17s. 6d. The grant was dated, witness Katerine, Queen of England, at Westminster, on the day and year aforesaid.*

On the 8th of November, 1544, a year which witnessed such wholesale changes in the possession of Church property, the King, in consideration of the sum of £269 13s. 4d., granted to William Bysshopp, of Bredy, in the County of Dorset, yeoman, and to John Hyde, of London, gentleman, and their heirs, the Manor of Chylcombe, with all its rights, members, and appurtenances, in the County of Dorset, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Buklande. Also other lands in Southampton, &c., and a messuage and five acres of land lately in the tenure of Nicholas Savage and Joan his wife, and afterwards in that of William Standysshe, situated in Bishop's Lydyarde, in the County of Somerset, which were in the King's hands, because Peter Basell, alias Peter Rosell, an alien, was not admitted to the King's protection. The clear annual value of Chylcombe was reckoned at £14, and of the land at Bishop's Lydyarde, at 4s. 4d. The former was to be held of the King in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one knight's

* Parts. for Grants, in Off. Aug. Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 5, rot. iij. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 14, mm. 31 (9), 30 (10), 29 (11).

fee, and the payment of a yearly rent of 28s. at Michaelmas. The Request to purchase, with the notice, by David Clayton, of the demise of the manor described at an earlier page, and the assertion that the trees growing about it "wylbarely ſuffyce for tymber to repayr the houſſes ſtanding vppon the ſame and for ſtak*es* for hedgebote to repayr & maynteyn the ſeyd hedg*es* and ffenc*es* therfore not valuyd," and of Ralph Lambe that he had made the particulars to no other person, and knew not whether the farmer or any other person were desirous to have the same, was dated the 8th of November, 36 Henry VIII., 1544; and the grant, witness the King, at Westminster, on the day above mentioned.*

On the 13th of the same month they obtained license, we are told, to alienate a moiety to Thomas Martin, of Longbridy, and his heirs. William Bysshopp did not long enjoy his new estate. He died on the 31st of May, 1545, leaving the ominous property to his son John, who succeeded his father at the age of seventeen years, and died four years after, 3 Edward VI! †

Nine months elapsed before other changes were effected. On the 4th of July, 1545, after a Request to purchase, dated the 24th of February, 36 Henry VIII., to which Ralph Lambe, the Deputy Auditor, appended his usual assurance "Theſe be the ffirſt p*er*ticlers therof made to anye man, Alſo I knowe no other p*er*ſone deſyrous to by the ſame, nor the Kyng*es* grace hath no more land*es* or Ten'*tes* there app*er*teynyng to the ſaid lat pryoris," the King granted to William Hodgys, of Myddelchynnock, in the County of Somerset, and to William Hodgys, of Lon-

* Parts. for Grants, in Off. Aug. Orig. 36 Hen. VII., p. 4, rot. ciiij^{xx}j. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII, p. 10, mm. 10 (24), 9 (25).

† Hutchins's Dorsetshire, 2nd Ed, vol. ii., p. 293.

don, son of the former, and their heirs, for the sum of £695 0s. 5d., the site of the Monastery of the Graye Ffreres of Ivelchester, twenty-nine messuages or burgages in the town of Bridgewater, lately belonging to the Hospital of S. John in that town; and three messuages or burgages in the city of Wells, in the separate tenure or occupation of Thomas Bodye, Cristofer Cooke, and Letice Trystes, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Buckeland. To these were added other lands in the Counties of Dorset and Derby. The property in Ivelchester was reckoned of the clear annual value of 13s. 4d.; that in Bridgewater, of £21 3s. 4d.; and that in Wells, of 49s. It was to be held in free socage, by fealty only, and not in chief. The Request to purchase was dated the 24th of February, 1545; and the grant as above, at Westminster.*

The spoil was not yet entirely disposed of. For the sum of £1393 8s. 10d., the King granted to John Pope, gentleman, and his heirs, sundry burgages, tenements, or cottages, in the parish of Kyrton in Holland, in the County of Lincoln, lately belonging to Buckland Priory, of the clear yearly value of 22s. An enormous tract in the Counties of Oxford, Gloucester, York, Wilts, Salop, Middlesex, Surrey, and Warwick accompanied the aforesaid property, which was to be held in free socage, by fealty only, and not in chief. The Request to purchase, stating, by Ralph Lambe, Deputy Auditor, that "the Kynges Maieſtie hath no more Burgages or Ten'tes w'in the ſame Towne but Thes aboue valued in the Right of the said late Houſſe of Buckeland," with the addition, by David Clayton, that "the trees growyng in the hedges aboute the ſaide curtylages wilbarely ſuffice for ſtakes for

* Parts. for Grants, in Off. Aug. Orig. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 6, rot. xxx. Pat. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 10, mm. 24 (13), 23 (14), 22 (15).

hedgeboote to repayre & meynteyn the ſaid hedges and fences therfore not valuid," was dated the — day of July, 1545, and the grant at Westminster, the 3rd of the October following.*

By this time, as the reader will have perceived, not much remained either to excite or to gratify the lust of acquisition. My task, accordingly, is all but completed. Of course, I cannot pursue further the history of each estate, which has now ceased to be of the interest that it hitherto possessed. The exception, however, which I have made in previous instances, it will not be improper to repeat in this.

So early as four years after the original grant to William Halley, in whose occupation, it will be remembered, the property even then was, King Edward VI., in consideration of the sum of £6 13s 4d., authorized him to alienate to John Cuffe and John Tynbery, and their heirs, his capital messuage called Buckelond Priors, with its appurtenances, and two gardens, two orchards, two hundred acres of arable land, thirty-six acres of meadow, seventy-three acres of pasture, and two acres of land covered with water—the Ponds, I presume, to which I drew attention in the beginning of the History—with their appurtenances in Buckland Priors and Coglod, in the County of Somerset, holden of the King in chief. Also to the aforesaid John Cuffe and John Tynbery special license was given to appropriate the same. The grant was dated at Westminster, the 13th of February, 1548.†

On the 4th of July, 1608, Edward Rogers, son of George Rogers, of Canington, sold to Sir Henry Hawley the site, circuit, and precinct of the late Monastery or Priory of

* Parts. for Grants, in Off. Aug. Orig. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 3, rot. xvj. Pat. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 3, mm. 13 (33), 12 (34), 11 (35), 10 (36), 9 (37).

† Orig. 2 Edw. VI., p. 1., rot. xlv. Pat. 2 Edw. VI., p. 1, m. (11) 35. Add. MS. B.M. 6367, f. 30. Appendix, No. XXVII.

Buckland, with its appurtenances.* The manor, according to Collinson,† was subsequently sold by the Hawleys to John Baker, Esq., Receiver General of the land-tax in the County of Somerset, whose son Christopher sold it to George Parker, of Boringdon, in the County of Devon, Esq., and his decendant, John Parker, Baron Boringdon, to the family of the present possessor.

We have now seen the Suppression of the House, and the wholesale alienation of its revenues. I propose to continue the annals of its impropriated benefices, so far as they have not been furnished by the various documents already quoted, from the time of the Declaration of the King's Supremacy and the compilation of the "Valor," through the interval between those events and the death of Queen Mary; embracing, as it will be found to do, a painfully interesting though very little known period of parochial history, in the attack upon and confiscation of a large class of religious endowments, and the temporary downfall of the ecclesiastical system of which those charities were a distinctive feature.

The Incumbents of the several benefices during the interval were the following, so far as I have been able to recover them :—

North Petherton:—Emerius Tuckfeld, 5th June, 1543; (Reg. Knyght, fol. xix.) John Wylliam, alias Rose, 2nd May, 1546; (Reg. Knyght, fol. xxx.) Richard Edon, S.T.B., 24th August, 1554; (Reg. Bourne, fol. xij.) Edward Cratford, ——; John Smyth, 6th January, 1557-8; (Reg. Bourne, fol. xxxiij.) Andrew Jefferys, 25th April, 1558. (Reg. Bourne, fol. xxxvj.)

Halse :—Thomas Cox, 1541; (Cler. Subs.) Roger Wymber, 8th October, 1556. (Reg. Bourne, fol. xxix.)

* Trin. Rec. 9 Jac. I. rot. cxij. † Vol. iii. p. 99.

Tolland :—William Jennyns, 26th June, 1554. (Reg. Bourne, fol vj.)

Of the Incumbents of Elworthy, Kilmersdon, and Heathfield, during the interval, I can make no additions to my previous lists.

The "Valor," for the formation of which an Act was passed in 1534, and which appears to have been made between January and June in the year 1535, gives the following particulars of each benefice.

NORTHPETHERTON.

John Bulcume, Vicar there.

Value of the Vicarage in predial tithes	xvj^{li} x^{s}	xxx^{li} v^{s} viij^{d}
Personal tithes, oblations, and other casualties	vij^{li} xij^{s} iiij^{d}	
Tithes of wool and lambs ..	vj^{li} iij^{s} iiij^{d}	
Thence :—		
To the Archdeacon of Taunton, for sinodals	iij^{s} vj^{d}	lvij^{s} x^{d}
Pension to the Prioress of Bockeland	liij^{s} iiij^{d}	
Rent resolute to the said Prioress	xij^{d}	
And there remains clear		xxvij^{li} vij^{s} x^{d}
The Tenth from thence		liiij^{s} ix^{d} ob.*

KYLMERSDON, with the Chapels of Aisshwyke and Colford annexed.

Thomas Thomson, Vicar there.

Value of Vicarage in tithe of wool and lambs	vij^{li}	xij^{li} iij^{s} iiij^{d}
Oblations, with personal tithes	ciij^{s} iiij^{d}	
Thence :—		

* Val. Eccl. I. 124.

Paid to the Archdeacon of Wells, for sinodals	iiij^{s} xj^{d}	ciij^{s} xj^{d}
Pension of a Chaplain celebrating in the Chapel of Aisshewyke	c^{s}	
And there remains clear		vj^{li} xviij^{s} v^{d}
The Tenth from thence		xiij^{s} x^{d} q'*

Elwurthy.

Robert Baylly, Rector there.

Value of Rectory in demesne lands	xl^{s}	
Tithe of wool and lambs ..	xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}	vj^{li} xviij^{s}
Predial tithes, with other casualities	lxiij^{s} viij^{d}	
Thence :—		
To the Bishop, for procurations	xx^{d}	
To the Archdeacon of Taunton, for sinodals	ix^{s} ix^{d} ob.	xj^{s} v^{d} ob.
And there remains clear		vj^{li} vj^{s} vj^{d} ob.
The Tenth from thence		xij^{s} viij^{d}†

Halse.

Thomas Hill, Vicar there.

Value of Vicarage in demesne lands	xx^{d}	
Predial tithes	xxj^{s} xj^{d} ob.	
Tithe of wool and lambs	xlviij^{s} iij^{d} ob.	
Oblations, with personal tithes	xlviij^{s} j^{d}	cxix^{s} v^{d} ob.
Deduct :—		
To the Bishop of Bath, for procurations	vj^{d}	
Clear		
The Tenth from thence		xj^{s} xj^{d} ob.‡

* Val. Eccl. I. 160.
† Val. Eccl. I. 221.
‡ Val. Eccl. I. 172.

HETHFELDE.

John Dawes, Rector there.

Value of Rectory in demesne lands	iiij^{li}	
Predial tithes	iiij^{li}	x^{li} iiij^{s}
Tithe of wool and lambs ..	x^{s}	
Oblations, with personal tithes	xxxiiij^{s}	
From thence :—		
Annual pension to the Prior of S. John of Jerusalem ..	xviij^{s}	xxij^{s} vj^{d}
To the Archdeacon of Taunton, for sinodals	iiij^{s} vj^{d}	
And there remains clear		ix^{li} xviij^{d}
The Tenth from thence		xviij^{s} ij^{d}*

TOLLAND.

John Crosse, Rector there.

Value of Rectory in demesne lands	xvj^{s}	
Tithe of wool and lambs ..	xxxiij^{s}	vij^{li} vj^{s} ix^{d}
Predial tithes	lx^{s}	
Oblations, with other casualties	xxxvij^{s} ix^{d}	
Thence :—		
To the Archdeacon of Taunton, for sinodals	ij^{s} iij^{d}	
A pension to the Religious Women of Mynchyn Bucland ..	ij^{s}	vj^{s} ix^{d}
To the Bishop, for procurations	ij^{s} vj^{d}	
And there remains clear		vij^{li}
The Tenth from thence		xiiij^{s}†

The only Returns for Broomfield and Michaelchurch are included, and will be found, among the Spirituals in the "Valor" of the Priory.‡

* Val. Eccl. I. 172. † Val. Eccl. I. 223. ‡ See p. 96.

One department, and that of special interest, yet solicits our attention.

The reader will not fail to remember the frequent mention in the foregoing pages of Chapels and Chantries in the parishes connected with Buckland. In order, therefore, as before stated, to complete the ecclesiastical history of these parishes down to the year 1558, I will give in conclusion the particulars of the foundations referred to and the circumstances of their suppression, together with the disposal of other lands, in the impropriated parishes, bequeathed to similar religious purposes.

Chapels were usually of earlier foundation than Chantries. They generally owed their origin to some pious layman who resided at a distance from his parish Church, and desired for himself and his family the blessing and comfort of a resident priest. Chantries were foundations for the commemoration of the faithful departed. They had either small Chapels within the Church itself, of which many beautiful examples remain in our Cathedral and larger parish Churches, or, more frequently, were furnished with an altar only, at which the service was sung in behalf of those by and for whom the Chantry was founded. The situation of these in hundreds of instances may be known by the piscina which adjoined the altar, and is still visible in the wall. "The piety of the English nation had flowed very much in that direction in the interval between the reigns of Edward I., and Henry VIII. Chantries had risen in almost every Church, where, in solemn commemoration of the departed, there was a beautiful union of piety to God, with some of the dearest charities of life." *

We will take them in their chronological order.

* Preface to Valor Eccl. p. iii.

CHAPEL OF SHEERSTON. This Chapel, which was, I believe, dedicated to All Saints, appears to have been the first of these foundations within the limit of our present field of investigation. It was, as we have seen, among the benefactions of William de Erlegh to his Priory of Buckland. Several facts relating to it, together with many incidental notices both of it and of those which follow, will be found in the foregoing pages under various forms of orthography. The incumbents that I have met with are the following :— Walter, 1294; (Rot. Assis. 22 Edw. I. m. 39 dors.) Nicholas le Bole, 1st October, 1342; (Page, *ante*, 57.) John Cryspyn, 13th March, 1348-9; (Page 59.) Richard Schawman, 10th August, 1349; (Page 59.) Robert Welshe, ——; John Saunders, 20th May, 1547. (Reg. Knyght.)

In the "Valor" of 1535, the Chapel is thus returned :—

SHYRSTON.

Robert Walsshe, Perpetual Chaplain.

Value of the Free Chapel in demesne lands ..	lxx^{s} vij^{d}
Clear	
The Tenth from thence	vij^{s} ob. q'*

CHAPEL OF NEWTON PLACYE. This was also a donation of William de Erlegh to his House at Buckland, and was dedicated to S. Peter. To what period its origin is to be referred is unknown, but a Chantry was founded in it by Richard de Plesseto, about the year 1290, of which foundation a minute account has already been given. It was returned by a jury in the year 1418, as a Chantry, with cure of souls, inasmuch as the Chaplain was every year during the season of Lent to hear the confessions of all the tenants of the Manor living in and near the same, to administer the Sacrament of the Eucharist at Easter in the said Chapel, and to constantly reside there

* Val. Eccl. I. 216.

and celebrate Masses and Divine Service for the souls of the founders, both on festival and other days, in the presence of the aforesaid tenants and their families; and, further, that it was not taxed, and was of the annual value of one hundred shillings. (Reg. Bubw. fol. cxlviij.) In an inquisition dated the 10th of July, 1425, the jurors presented that the Chantry was of the value of forty shillings, and that it was chargeable with the pension to the Prioress of Buckland which has been already detailed. (Reg. Staff. fol. iij.) The incumbents, so far as I can supply them, were these:—William de Greynton, ——; William de Hylpynton, or Hylprynton, 1290; (Page 30.) William de Hauckerigg, 12th October, 1324; (Reg. Drok. fol. ccxxxj.) John de Nyweton, 27th August, 1328; (Reg. Drok. fol. cclxxxiij.) Robert Roser, 1349; (Page 60.) John Hayward, (?) 1391; (Page 67.) John Osborn, ——; Richard Wyvyng, 3rd August, 1418; (Page 31.) William Style, 26th August, 1420; (Reg. Bubw. fol. clxxv.) Robert Bertlot, 4th July, 1425; (Reg. Staff. fol. iij.) Robert Laurence, ——; William Edward, 30th October, 1439; (Reg. Staff. fol. clx.) John Pike, 21st December, 1445; (Reg. Bek. fol. xlvj.) Richard Forde, 11th January, 1453-4; (Reg. Bek. fol. cl.) Thomas Watch, 25th October, 1460; (Reg. Bek. fol. cclix.) John Scarsy, 17th September, 1461; (Reg. Bek. fol. cclxix.) William Tredwyne, 16th March, 1484-5; (Reg. Staff. fol. cxxiij.) John Saunders, 25th November, 1521; (Reg. Wulcy, fol. xv.) John Dyble, (?) 1535; (Val. Eccl. I. 139.) John Andersey, 1548. (Cart. Chant.)

In the year 1398 it was valued at vj marcs, (Page 68.) and in 1426 at lx^{s}. (Reg. Staff. fol. ix.)

In the "Valor," among the possessions of the New College of Vicars Choral of Wells, the owners of the Manor, the place is only noticed in connexion with an

annual pension of iiij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} to John Dyble, Chaplain of the Almshouse there, by ordination; and a payment of vj^{s} iij^{d} for a yearly obit for the souls of William Gascoyne, [and others] by ordination.*

Chapel of Ashwick. This was a Chapel of Ease to Kilmersdon, and was dedicated to S. James. Little is known of it, except that, as related above, (Page 182.) the Vicar of Kilmersdon paid c^{s} a year to the officiating priest. I believe that John de Ffairford was Chaplain in 1350; (Page 59.) and Roger atte Noneue in 1377. (Page 66.) Cornelius Blake was Chaplain of Aysshwyke in 1468. (Reg. Still. fol. xxij.)

Broomfield. In 1188 Matilda de Arundel, with the assent of Gerbert de Percy, her husband, gave the Church of Brumfeld to Bishop Reginald in perpetual alms, saving the right and tenement of Geoffrey and Philip, the priests. (Reg. Well. I. fol. xxv, nn. 78, 79.) The Dean and Chapter of Wells are said to receive two shillings a year from this Church, in 1246 and 1281. (Reg. Well. I. fol. cxij. Reg. III. fol. iiij.) Subsequently, as already shown, (Pages 43, 48, 56.) it was returned in 1329, 1335 and 1339, together with Kilmersdon, Northpetherton, Durston, and Halse, as one of the impropriated benefices of the Order of the Hospital. John Hoyges was capellanus parochialis, and Peter was capellanus annuellarius, in 1449-50. (Page 75.)

Buckland. Robert Cooke was cap. annuellarius in 1449-50; (Page 75.) and, I believe, John Jacob was cap. parochialis in 1463. (Page 76.)

Durston. John was Chaplain in 1349; (Page 60.) and William Nicoll in 1449-50. (Page 75.) Its value has been stated at pp. 48, 66, 74.

* Val. Eccl. I. 139.

NORTHPETHERTON. There were three Chantries in the parish Church of Northpetherton, one of which was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. I presume that Robert de Weston was Chaplain here in 1356 and 1359; (Pages 63, 64.) and Nicholas Person, in 1394 and 1397. (Page 67.) In or about the year 1380, Henry Pope, John Moryet, and Henry Clerk were Chaplains; (Page 68.) John Yve was Chaplain of the Chantry of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in 1425; (Reg. Staff. fol. iij.) Robert Wodeford of the same Chantry, in 1449-50; (Reg. Bek. fol. cix.) John Ryke, cap. annuellarius, and John Cary, capellanus, in 1463; (Reg. Bek. fol. ccix.) John Langdon, Water Jones, and John Saunders, in 1535; (Page 100.) and Richard Verser of the Chantry of the Blessed Virgin, between that date and the Dissolution. In the year 1535 these Chantries were thus returned:—

NORTHPETHERTON.

John Langdon, Chantry Priest there.

Value of Chantry in demesne lands	v^{s} iiij^{d}	vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
In a pension from the Prioress of Bockeland	vj^{li} viij^{s}	
The Tenth from thence		xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

Water Jones, Chantry Priest there.

Value of Chantry in a certain stipend from Sir Amice Pawlet, Knt., John Popham, and Marmaduke Mauncell.		vj^{li}
Clear		
The Tenth from thence		xij^{s}

John Saunders, Chantry Priest there.

Value of Chantry in demesne lands	xxxvij^{s}	vij^{li} ij^{d}
Predial tithes, oblations, and other casualties	ciij^{s} ij^{d}	

Thence:—

Annual Pension to the Prioress of Bockeland	vj^{s} viij^{d}
And there remains clear	vj^{li} xiij^{s} vj^{d}
The Tenth from thence	xiij^{s} iiij^{d} q'*

The last days of these foundations were now rapidly approaching. They had already been granted to Henry VIII. by an Act passed towards the close of his reign, and when he had begun to entertain some qualms of conscience for the wholesale sacrilege with which his earlier years had been disgraced. Nothing, therefore, was done during the brief remainder of his life, but, with the accession of his son and successor, the craving of the Court harpies could no longer be restrained. I have given in other memoirs† some account of the process of their suppression, to which the reader is referred, and will now merely add that an Act was passed in the second year of Edward VI. for the dissolution of Hospitals, Chapels, and Chantries, and a Certificate was made of their various possessions, with the view of disposing of them to the best bidder. The original return is so clear and intelligible, that I cannot do better than give it exactly as it stands. I will take those with whose history we are now employed in the order in which they occur in that document, and will then in the same order narrate the particulars of the fate of each.

27 HALSE.	Cattall gyuen to the mayntenance of lyghtes w^{t}in the paryſhe churche ther	videl't.	Six yeowe ſhepe remaynyng w^{t} William Cape and William Blake prayſed at ij^{s} le pece ——	xij^{s}‡

* Val. Eccl. I. 214.

† See the History of White Hall in Ilchester, in this Volume, pp. 52—55.

‡ Certificate of Chantries, No. 42, n. 27.

41 SELWORTHY. Lyghtes and obittes foundyd wtin the paryſhe churche ther, Ar yerely worthe in Landes ten'tes and other hereditamentes in the tenure of ſondery perſones as maye appere perticulerly more at large by the rentall of the ſame xiiij^{s} wherof in Rentes reſolute p^{d} yerely ij^{d} And ſo Remaynethe Clere— xiij^{s} x^{d}.

Memor^{d} Alexaunder Popham and William Halley eſquiers, alleage, that the Annuall rent of iij^{s} iiij^{d} (parcell of the ſaide ſo'me of xiij^{s} x^{d} cu'myng out of certeyne landes and ten'tes parcell of the poſſeſſions of the late Diſſolued Hoſpitall or cōmaundrie of ſaincte Johans of Buckelande Prioris in the ſaide countie of Somerset) was diſcharged by reaſon that the ſaide late Hoſpitall or cōmaundrie wt all the poſſeſſions thervnto belonging came vnto the handes of oure late ſoueraigne lorde of famouſe memorie Kinge Henry the viijth, by the diſſoluc'on of the late Priory of ſaincte Johans Jerl'm in England, Wch cōmaundrye of Buckelande Prioris aforeſaide, and all the landes and hereditamentes therto belonging amongeſt other thinges the ſaide Alexaunder and William did pur-

chace of the ſaide late Kinge to them and to their heires for euer, And haue ſhewed before the cōmiſſioners, their l'res patentes in that behalf, beringe Date the xvj^th^ Daye of ffebruary in the xxxvj^th^ yere of the ſaide late Kinge his reigne, and thervppon prayen to be diſcharged of the ſaide Rent.*

51 ELWORTHY. Lyghtes foundyd wt in the paryſhe churche ther. — Ar yerely worthe in One ten't, wt a garden thervnto belonging, and one acre of arable lande in the co'en feldes ther — iij^s^ iiij^d^†

62 BROMFELDE. Cattall gyuen to the mayntenance of Lyghtes wtin the paryſhe Churche ther. — videl't. One kowe remaynyng in the cuſtody of Thomas Hare prayſed at — xviij^s^‡

The free Chapell of Sherſton wtin the paryſhe ther. — Is yerely worth in Landes ten'tes and hereditamentes in the tenure of ſondery p'ſones as maye appere perticulerly more at large by the Rentall of the ſame — lxx^s^ vij^d^

Plate and Ornamtes. — Two Challices Waing xiij oz di; Ornamentes prayſed at iij^s^ ix^d^

Bell metall xl^lb^.

* Certificate of Chantries, No. 42, n. 41.
† Certificate of Chantries, No. 42, n. 51.
‡ Certificate of Chantries, No. 42, n. 62.

	The Chauntrie of Newton placy w^th in the fayde paryſhe	Memor^d	John Saunders clerke of the Age of .l. yeres of honeſt converſacon incu'bent ther.							
		Is yerely wo^rth in	LANDES ten'*tes*, Tythes and hereditam^*tes* in the tenure of ſondery p'ſones as may appere p'ticulerly more at large by the Rentall of the ſame	vij^li v^s iiij^d	Wherof in	Rent*es* reſolute paid yerely — vj^s viij^d And ſo	Remaynethe Clere— vj^li xviij^s viij^d			
		Plate and Ornam^*tes*.	A Chalice of ſilu*er* p'cell guilte waying xiij oz .. .. viij^s iiij^d	BELL metall'	Di C					
		Memor^d.	John Anderſey clerke of thage of lx yeres incumbent ther.							
67 NORTHE PETHERTON.	The Chauntrie of oure lady w^in the	Is yerely	LANDES tenem^*tes* and hereditam^*tes* in the tenure of ſondery p'ſones as maye appere	vij^li iij^s ix^d ob	ij^s ij^d ob' Rent*es* reſolute and xvj^s viij^d	xviij^s x^d ob	And ſo Remayneth	vj^li iiij^s xj^d		

paryſhe churche ther — wo^{r}the in — p'ticulerly more at large by the Rentall of the ſame — Wherof in — ffees paide yerely — Clere

Plate and Ornam^{tes}. — Two challic*es* waing .. xij oz di'
Ornament*es*—none

Memor^{d} — Richard Versar clerke of the Age of xlij yeres indifferently lerned incu'bent ther.

The ffree Rent of x^{s} vj^{d}, p'cell of the foreſaide value, yerely to be levied and paide out of the Iſſues and proffect*es* of the landes of one John Whyting, hathe ben w^{t}holden and detayned theis too yeres paſt.

Lyght*es* foundyd w^{t}in the paryſhe churche ther — Ar yerely wo^{r}the in — One Annuall rent to be levied and receyued out of the Iſſues and proffett*es* of certayne Land*es* at Rydon w^{t}in the paryſhe of Northe Petherton aforeſaid ſometyme Marmaduke Maunſell*es* — iij^{s} iiij^{d}

Memor^{d}. Ther was w^{t}in the ſaide paryſhe churche one other Chauntrie, wherof one John Langdon clerke was incu'bent, who died three yeres paſt and more, Whiche receyved yerely for his ſtipend—vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}, out of the Revenues of the courte of the Augmentac'ons, and before paide yerely by the late Prioreſſe of Buckeland, approprietoreſſe of the p'ſonage of Northepetherton aforeſaide, w^{ch} Chauntrie hath ben voyde and in the King*es* ma^{ties} handes eu*er* ſythe the deathe of the ſaide late incu'bent.

The p'ſonage impropriat as before is in the King*es* handes.

The vicarage ther is of the yerely value of—xxj^{li} x^{s} v^{d} Wherof John Roſe al' Wyllie clerke is nowe incu'bent.

P'takers of the lordes holy Soop*er*—DCCCxj p'ſones.*

126 KYLMERSDON. Lyght*es* foundyd w^{t}in the paryſhe churche ther. Ar yerely wo^{r}the in LANDES Ten'*tes* and here-ditament*es* in the tenure of ſondery p'ſones, as maye appere p'ticulerly more at large by the Rentall of the ſame. viij^{s} viij^{d}†

* Certificate of Chantries, No. 42, n. 67.

† Certificate of Chantries, No. 42, n. 126.

Such was the particularity with which the Church robbers of the sixteenth century did their hideous work. Who would imagine that these and similar Returns, of which, as it appears, most modern readers are entirely ignorant, could have reference to the forcible alienation of sacred property, devoted in the most solemn manner to holy uses, associated with the daily duties of Christian men, and hedged around with anathemas, thus contemptuously disregarded, but which soon found out their victims. The result was conspicuous in the lower tone of religious feeling which was presently characteristic of the place. Even now, after a lapse of more than three hundred years, it is much to be questioned whether the clergy of North Petherton can count half the number of communicants that are here recorded. They were eight hundred and eleven then. How many are they now?

But let us turn, lastly, to the particulars of the disposal of the spoil.

1. Parish of Elworthy. On the 9th of January, 1549-50, the King granted to Richard Roberts, of London, gent., all that messuage, and tenement, and one garden adjacent to the same, in Elworthye, in the County of Somerset, and one acre of arable land in the common field of Elworthy, of old time given for the perpetual support of one lamp in the parish Church of Elworthye aforesaid. With this were accompanied lands in the County of Wilts; the free Chapel of Knolle in Bedminster and its lands; the Chantry of Umbreleigh, in Adrington, in Devon, and its lands; lands in Brodewodewiger and Ilsington, belonging to the Chantry of Mareldon; the house and capital mansion of the Chantry of the Name of Jesus in the Church of Evill, in Somerset, and its lands; lands formerly given for the perpetual support of anniversaries in the

Churches of Wrexall and Holcombe, in the same County, together with others in the Counties of Chester and Denbigh. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, on the day aforesaid.*

Two tenements in Estellysworth and Westellesworth, leased to Bernard Duffelde, and worth xxj^{s} a year, with other lands belonging to the Chantry of S. John Baptist, in the parish Church of Nettlecombe, and lands in Ashebrittell, belonging to the Fraternity of that place, were granted to John Bellowe and Edward Streitbury, on the 7th of February, (?) 3 Edward VI., 1548-9.†

2. The Free Chapel of Sheerston, within the parish of North Petherton. This was valued, in rents from tenements, a mill, and eight acres of arable land, in Sherston, leased to John Togood, iiij^{s}, John Ryves, xij^{s}, Robert Nowell, xx^{s} ij^{d}, William Howse, vj^{s} iiij^{d}, Joan Prate, widow, v^{s} ij^{d}, John Cosyn, vj^{s} viij^{d} and xj^{s}, Thomas Hichefeld, ij^{s} vij^{d}, and Joan Vynycombe, ij^{s} viij^{d}, in all —lxx^{s} vij^{d},‡ and was granted to John Aylworth and William Lacy.

On the 20th of August, 2 Edward VI., 1548, the King granted to the said John Aylworth and William Lacy all the messuages, lands, &c., in the tenure or occupation of John Togood, John Ryves, Robert Nowell, William Howse, Joan Pratt, widow, John Cosyn, Thomas Hychefeld, and Joan Venycombe. Also a corn mill with appurtenances, and lands containing by estimation eight acres, then or lately in the tenure or occupation of John Cosyn or his assigns, situate, lying, and being in Sherston and North-

* Pat. 3 Edw. VI., p. 7, mm. 4, 5, 6.

† Parts. for Sale of Chantries, &c. Miscell. Books, Off. Aug. Vol. 68, p. 288b. Pat. 3 Edw. VI., p. 2, mm. 1, 2.

‡ Particulars for Sale of Chantries, &c. Miscell. Books, Off. Aug. Vol. 68, pp. 332 b, 333.

petherton, and belonging to and parcel of the possessions of the Free Chapel of Sherston, in the parish of North-petherton, lately dissolved. Also lands belonging to a Chantry in the Church of Combflory, and the Chapel of Norton Hawtefelde. The property belonging to the Chapel of Sherston was valued at the annual sum of 70s. 7d., and was to be held by fealty only, in free socage and not in chief. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Brundysshe, on the day above mentioned.*

John Saunders was the last Incumbent of the Chapel. He occurs among the pensionaries in 1556, as in the receipt of an annual pension of lxiij^{s} vj^{d} ;† and I find him paying a subsidy of vj^{s} viij^{d} so late as the year 1564, in a certificate dated the 16th of June, in that year.‡

A John Saunders, probably the same, was the last Incumbent of S. George's Chantry in the parish Church of Bridgwater. He also occurs in Cardinal Pole's list of pensionaries in 1556, as then receiving a pension of c^{s}.§

3. The Chantry of Newton Placye, within the parish of North Petherton. This was valued, in the mansion house of the Chantry with garden adjacent, at v^{s} ; lands in Newton Placy, leased to Simon Courte, viij^{s}, Robert Rause and John Pey, viij^{s}, John Pye, iij^{s}, and Richard Pye, ij^{s} viij^{d} ; and cottages in Michell Churche, in the tenure of Stephen Batte, viij^{s}, Nicholas Moryce, iiij^{s}, and John Babbe, ij^{s},— in all xl^{s} viij^{d}. Against this was a free rent, to Alexander Popham, of land called Culverfelde, of vj^{s} viij^{d} per annum, leaving a clear total of xxxiiij^{s}.‖ This was granted to John Hulson and William Pendred.

* Pat. 2 Edw. VI., p. 4, mm. (49) 8, (50) 7, (51) 6.

† Card. Pole's Pension Book, fol. xxx.

‡ Cler. Subs. $\frac{5}{139}$. § Card. Pole's Pension Book, fol. xxx.

‖ Parts. for Sale of Chantries, &c. Miscell. Books, Off. Aug. Vol. 67 pp. 323, 323 b.

On the 12th of July, 1549, the King granted to the aforesaid John Hulson and William Pendred, of London, together with the possessions of various other religious foundations in the City of London, and the Counties of Beds, Huntingdon, Oxford, Devon, Stafford, Gloucester, Lincoln, Surrey, &c., the capital house and mansion of the late Chantry of Newton Placye, in the parish of Northepetherton, and a garden adjacent to the same, with three cottages, and lands then or lately in the tenure or occupation of the aforesaid occupiers, situate, lying, and being in Newton Placy, Michellchurche, and Northpetherton, and belonging to the said late Chantry, and parcel of its possessions. All this property was valued at the yearly sum of £153 11s. 5½d. and that belonging to the Chantry was to be held by fealty only, in free socage, with reservation of a yearly payment of 6s. 8d., issuing from part of its possessions, to be paid to Alexander Popham, Esq., and his heirs. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, on the day above given.*

I may add that in obedience to a commission, dated at Westminster, the 12th of February, 26 Elizabeth, 1583-4, a number of depositions were taken at Northpetherton, on the 24th of April following, before Gabriel Hawley and Hugh Norris, Esqrs., in a case of William Lacy against Thomas Wrothe and others, proving the payment of a tithe of xl^{s} issuing from Petherton Park to the successive Chantry priests, and, after them, to the farmer of the estate.†

John Andersey was the last incumbent, and was living in the year 1556, when he occurs in Cardinal Pole's List of Pensionaries as receiving a pension of c^{s}.‡

* Pat. 3 Edw. VI., p. 10, mm. (23) 6, (24) 5, (25) 4, (26) 3, (27) 2, (28) 1.

† Depositions, Easter, 26 Eliz. Somers. No. 1.

‡ Card. Pole's Pension Book, fol. xxx.

John Dyble has already been mentioned in connexion with Newton Placye in 1535. (Page 187.) A John Dible, presumably the same, occurs in the Cardinal's list as the last incumbent of the Hospital within the City of Wells, and receiver of a pension of lxvj^{s} viij^{d}.* He is doubtless to be identified with the first of two pensionaries, John Dybbel, with a pension of iij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}, and paying a subsidy of vj^{s} viij^{d}, and John Dybbeil, with a pension of iiij^{li} iiij^{s} viij^{d}, and paying a subsidy of viij^{s} v^{d}ob., in a schedule of pensionaries for a subsidy due on the 25th of March, 1558, appended to a certificate of Gilbert, Bishop of Bath and Wells, dated the 20th of October, in the same year.†

4. Our Lady's Chantry in the Church of North Petherton. Nine burgages belonging to this Chantry, in the separate tenures of John Canne, John Bulpan, Henry Canne, William Norton, Robert Rousewell, John Baldwyn, John Kelley, Robert Budde, Richard Dyble, John Bennet, John Wheler, and Christofer Harry, or their assigns, in Northpetherton, formerly belonging to the late Chantry of Blessed Mary, in the Church of Northpetherton, and parcel of its possessions, were granted to Thomas Reve, John Johnson, and Henry Herdson, all of London, together with similar property in the City of London, and the Counties of Bucks, Worcester, Lincoln, Dorset, Hereford, Essex, Salop, York, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, &c. A rent of twenty pence a year, to be paid to Sir Roger Blewet, Knt., and his heirs, was reserved. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 15th of May, 1550.‡

* Card. Pole's Pension Book, fol. xxxb.

† Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{126}$

‡ Pat. 4 Edw. VI., p. 7, mm. (34) 24 —— (43) 15.

Richard Verser was the last incumbent of the Chantry of Blessed Mary. He occurs in Cardinal Pole's Pension Book as receiving in 1556 a pension of c^{s}.* I believe he is the same as a Richard Bersar, whom I find afterwards a stipendiary curate of Ham, and who is mentioned among the curates of the 4th and 5th years of Philip and Mary as in receipt of a salary of vj^{li} $xiij^{s}$ $iiij^{d}$, and paying thence-from a subsidy of vj^{s} $viij^{d}$ due at Lady-day, 2nd Elizabeth, 1560.† He also occurs among the stipendiaries receiving a stipend of not above eight pounds, and paying the same sum of vj^{s} $viij^{d}$ for a subsidy due at Lady-day in the following year.‡

One of the Chantries in the Church of Northpetherton, of which John Langdon was the last incumbent, was virtually suppressed in the year 1544, as, on his death, no clerk was appointed to the vacant cure.§ (Pages 167, 194.)

5. Parish of North Petherton. A moiety of a close of land and pasture, called Showell, in Northepederton, in the tenure of Walter White, worth xxv^{s} per annum, belonging to a Chantry in the parish Church of Lamporte, was granted to Laurence Hyde.‖ As this and some following grants are of more than ordinary interest to Somersetshire readers, I will give them in detail.

For the sum of £1269 5s. 7d., the King granted to Laurence Hyde, of London, gentleman, and his heirs, executors, and administrators, certain messuages and lands belonging to a fund for the maintenance of a lamp in the Church of Wotton under Edge, and other lands connected with similar charities in those of Knoyle Bishop's, the

* Card. Pole's Pension Book, fol. xxx. † Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{128}$.

‡ Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{129}$. § Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{123}$.

‖ Parts. for Sale of Chantries, &c. Miscell. Books, Off. Aug. Vol. 67, p. 49.

Cathedral Church of Sarum, Ffyssherton Auger, Bymerton, S. Thomas's in Salisbury, Crukerne, Bere Crocombe, Wyvelescombe, Olde Cleve, Spaxton, Dynder, and Shepton Mallet. Also all the Chapel of Longlede, in the parish of Martocke, with its lands; the Chapel of Southe Cheryton, in the parish of Horsyngton, with its lands; the Chantry of John Heron, in the parish Church of Lamporte, with its extensive lands, including a moiety of a close of land and pasture called Showell, then or lately in the tenure of Walter White, in Northpetherton; a messuage and tenement in the tenure of John Bennett, in Newton Playcye; and lands, meadows, and pastures, in Moreland. Also the free Chapel of S. James, in Curry Mallet. Also the Chapel in the Cemetery of the parish Church of Crukerne, formerly belonging to the Chantry of Blessed Mary in the same, and its other lands. Also all that Chapel called Nethewayes Chapel, situate within the Cemetery of the Church of the late Priory of Taunton, and to the late Chantry of S. Etheldreda, in Taunton, formerly belonging, and pertaining, and parcel of its late possessions. Also all the house or capital mansion of the late Chantry of S. Andrew, in Taunton aforesaid, and all the houses, buildings, pleasure grounds, orchards, gardens, and curtilages whatsoever, to the same mansion adjacent, belonging, and pertaining, with appurtenances, situate and being in the Cemetery of the parish Church of Taunton aforesaid, and formerly in the hands and proper occupation of the late Chantry priest of the same late Chantry; and all those three burgages or tenements, with appurtenances, now or lately in the separate tenures or occupations of John Balamye and Katerine Daye, situate and being in Taunton aforesaid, to the said late Chantry of S. Andrew, in Taunton aforesaid, formerly belonging and

pertaining, and parcel of its late possessions. Also all that house or capital mansion of the late Chantry, called Swynges Chauntrye, in Taunton aforesaid, and all the houses, buildings, dovecots, pleasure grounds, orchards, gardens, and curtilages, to the same mansion adjacent, belonging, and pertaining, with all their appurtenances, situate, lying, and being in Taunton aforesaid, to the same late Chantry, called Swynges Chauntrey, formerly belonging, and pertaining, and parcel of its late possessions. Also lands belonging to Chantries at Tyddeswall, in the County of Derby, and Ilmystre, in the County of Somerset. Also all that messuage and tenement, and all houses, buildings, shops, cellars, solars, pleasure grounds, orchards, gardens, and curtilages whatsoever, with appurtenances, now or lately in the tenure of John Adam, situate, lying, and being in Taunton, viz. in High Street there, to the late Chantry, called Swynges, in Taunton aforesaid, now dissolved, formerly belonging and pertaining, and parcel of its late possessions. Also lands belonging to sundry Chantries in Kent. All were to be held as fully, freely, and entirely, as their late owners had held and enjoyed the same. They were valued at £85 3s. 10d., a year. The bells and lead were in every instance, save the lead of Crewkerne and Nethewayes, reserved to the King, his heirs and successors, together with the advowsons, dispositions, and rights of patronage of Churches. All the lands were to be held by the aforesaid Laurence Hyde, and his heirs and assigns for ever, for their own proper use, of the King and his successors as of his manor of Bullesforde, in the County of Wilts, by fealty only, in free socage, and not in chief, with release of all corrodies, rents, fees, annuities, and payments issuing from the same, except certain payments, among which were the following

for the lands in Somersetshire :—An annual rent of 12½d. issuing from lands in Northpetherton and Moreland, and to be paid to William Paulet, Knt., lord Seynt John and his heirs ; an annual rent of 12d. issuing from lands in Newton Playcye, and to be paid to John Worth, and his heirs ; an annual rent of 12d. issuing from the burgage of Joan *(sic)* Balamy, in Taunton aforesaid, to be paid to the Bishop of Winton and his successors for the time being ; an annual rent of 2s. 2d. issuing from the burgage of Katerine Daye, in Taunton aforesaid, and to be paid to the same Bishop, &c. ; an annual rent of 8s. issuing from the capital mansion in Ilmystre, and to be paid to Edward, Duke of Somerset, and his heirs ; and a certain annual rent of 3s. issuing from the tenement in Taunton of John Adam, to be paid to the Bishop of Winton and his successors. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 6th of March, 1549-50.*

A messuage and tenement called Bulpans, thirteen acres of land, and a pasture called Wele mede, containing by estimation thirty acres, with other lands in Northepetherton, and formerly belonging to the Priory of S. John in Brydgewater, with a large amount of property in various counties, were granted to Thomas Browne and William Breton, by patent, dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 25th of March, 1553.†

On the 1st of May, 1553, the King granted to Thomas Sydney, of Walsyngham, in the County of Norfolk, Esq., and Nicholas Halswell, of Gotehurste, in the County of Somerset, Esq., together with property in the Counties of Southampton, Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Northampton, Leicester, York, Salop, Lincoln, &c., &c., the following

* Pat. 3 Edw. VI., p. 3, mm. 32, 33, 34, 35, 36.
† Pat. 7 Edw. VI., p. 7, mm. 23——27.

in Somerset:—a messuage and hereditament called Westbowre, lands called Yatefeldes, the Mylle close, the Mylle mede, Grenham, Basyng, Warrens, Downe, and Castle-acre, then or lately in the tenure of John White and John Raffe, or either of them, in Brydgwater, Durleigh, and Cannyngton; a water mill called Westbowre, and other lands in the parishes of Bridgwater, Durleigh, and Wembdon; a tenement and six acres of land and meadow, in the occupation of John Ffarmer, in Comydge; one cottage and garden in the same, in the occupation of Richard Roche, and another tenement, with half a virgate of land and meadow, in the occupation of Robert Reve, situate in Westmounkton, Muryllinche, etc., all of which were lately the property of Edward, late Duke of Somerset. Also other lands in Bridgewater, Northpetherton, Durleigh, Chilton, &c., formerly belonging to the Hospital of S. John in Bridgewater; and the Rectory of Chilterne Domere, formerly belonging to the late Monastery of Brewton. The property was to be held in free socage and not in chief; with reservation of annual payments of six shillings and ninepence from that lately belonging to the Duke of Somerset, to be paid to Lord Zouche, lord of the burg of Bridgwater; of two shillings from the same, due to Sir Roger Blewet, Knt., lord of the Manor of Northepetherton; and of seven pence, due from the same to William, Marquis of Winchester, for the lands in Westmounkton. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, on the day named above.*

6. Parish of Broomfield. On the 29th of July, 1549, the King granted to Silvester Taverner, for the sum of £1114 6s. 4d., together with similar property in the County of Dorset, the City of London, and the Counties of Ches-

* Pat. 7 Edw. VI., p. 4, mm. 1——5.

ter, Warwick, Bucks, Worcester, &c., all that late Chapel situate in the Cemetery of the Church of Milverton, and all the walls, stones, iron, lead, glass, timber, and tiles, &c. of, in, and upon the said Chapel, being or remaining. Also all the Rectory or Chapel of Wilton, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton, now dissolved, and parcel of its possessions. Also all the Rectory and Church of Russheton, with all its rights and appurtenances, formerly belonging to the said late Priory of Taunton; and all houses, buildings, tithe barns, stables, dovecots, pleasure grounds, orchards, gardens, glebe lands, meadows, feedings, pastures, commons, woods, tithes of wheat, grass, grain, wool, lambs, and other tithes of what nature or kind soever. Also all oblations, obventions, fruits, profits, advantages, emoluments, and hereditaments whatsoever, situate, lying, and being, and increasing, or issuing, etc. in Wilton, Russheton, and Stoke, to the said Rectory or Chapel of Wilton, and to the said Rectory and Church of Russheton, or to either of them in any way belonging, or parcel of their possessions, or of either of them. Also all small tithes accruing from the Chapels of Russheton and Stoke, formerly belonging to the said late Priory of Taunton, or parcel of its possessions. Also all the Rectory and Church of Bromfilde, with all and singular its appurtenances, formerly belonging to the late Monastery of Buckeland, now dissolved, and parcel, &c., with all houses, buildings, tithe barns, stables, &c., &c. [as before] in Bromfelde or elsewhere, to the said Rectory of Bromfelde in any way belonging or pertaining. The property was estimated at the yearly value of £59 11s. 10d. The bells and leaden roofs, and advowsons of Churches were reserved. The tenure was free socage. The grantee and his heirs had to pay the salaries and stipends of the Chaplains

celebrating and serving cure of souls in the Churches and Chapels of Wilton, Russheton, and Stoke aforesaid. They were to have full power to convert to their own proper uses the aforesaid Rectory and Chapel of Wilton, the said Rectory and Chapel of Russheton, the said Chapel of Stoke, and the said Rectory and Church of Bromfelde, with all their rights and appurtenances, and all and singular glebe lands, tithes, oblations, and obventions whatsoever, any law, statute, act, or ordinance, etc. to the contrary hitherto made or put forth notwithstanding. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, on the day named above.*

7. Parish of Durston. On the 18th of December, 1549, the King granted, for £265 15s. 6½d., to George Payne, of Hutton, in the County of Somerset, gent., the late Fraternity of the Blessed Virgin, in Wynscombe, with its lands; the Chapel of Aileston Sutton, in the parish of Overwere, with all its tithes, &c.; lands in the parish of Blagdon, for a light in that Church; two acres of pasture in Hartefelde, given to the support of an anniversary in the parish Church of Bagworthe; lands in Wells, belonging to Trinity Chantry, in the parish Church of Chedder; and lands in Axebrige, given to the support of an anniversary in the parish Church of Axebrige. Also all that cottage, and all the lands, meadows, &c., then or lately in the separate tenures of William Hoker and William Hoper, situate, lying, and being in Durston, formerly belonging to the late Chantry of S. Andrew, in Taunton, now dissolved, and parcel of its possessions; lands connected with similar foundations at Chedsey, Hunspill, and Cosyngton; the Chapel of the Holy Cross, at Wachet, in the parish of S. Decumans; lands at Long Ashton; lands,

* Pat. 3 Edw VI., p. 7, mm. 35, 36, 37, 38.

meadows, and pastures, now or lately in the tenure of Thomas Doble and others, lying and being in Crowcombe, formerly belonging to the late Chantry of Holy Trinity, in Taunton, and parcel of its possessions; and the Chapel of S. Katerine at Portebury; with all woods and underwoods whatsoever, and with all their rents and annual profits. The property was valued at £13 12s. 9d. a year, the bells and leaden roofs, and advowsons of Churches reserved, and was to be held by fealty only, in free socage, and not in chief, from Michaelmas last past, with no reservations in respect of the Taunton and Durston property. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, on the day already mentioned.*

8. Parish of Kilmersdon. Certain lands, including "a co'mon woode cont' iiij^{xx}x acres callyd Haridge in the paryſhe of Kylmersdon, wherin grow^{t} ccxl okes prayſed at iij^{d} le pece—lx^{s}, and iiij^{xx} asshes p^{a}yſed at j^{d} le pece—vj^{s} viij^{d}"† in all worth lxxviij^{s} vj^{d} a year, and belonging to the Guild or Fraternity of Holy Trinity and S. John Baptist, in the parish Church of Shepton Mallet, were granted to John Horner, together with other lands belonging to the same Guild in Aishewike, Shepton Mallett, Stoke S. Michael, etc. The lead and bells were reserved. The property was valued at the clear yearly sum of £14 17s. 8d., and was to be held by fealty only, in free socage, and not in chief, with full release from all corrodies, stipends, pensions, &c., except a yearly rent of 12d. from lands in Aisshewyke to the Earl of Huntyngdon. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 11th of November, 1548.‡

* Pat. 3 Edward VI., p. 11, mm. 1, 2.

† Certificate of Chantries, No. 42, n. 173. Parts. for Sale of Chantries, &c. Miscell. Books, Off. Aug. Vol. 68, pp. 295, 295b.

‡ Pat. 2 Edw. VI., p. 3 mm. (42) 3, (43) 2.

Of this Fraternity Robert Hill was the last Incumbent, and appears in Cardinal Pole's Pension Book as surviving in 1556, and in the receipt of an annual pension of iiij^{li}.*

Not less curious than most of the documents with quotations from which the previous pages have abounded is that which shall furnish the concluding illustration of the varied fortunes of the place. A Roll is yet in existence, preserved among the records of the Court of Augmentations, and formerly contained in a bag labelled with the name of that tribunal, consisting of a list of arrears of Bailiffs, Collectors, &c. of pensions and annual tenths in the Counties of Dorset, Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall, for the year ending at Michaelmas, 2 and 3 Philip and Mary, 1555-6. Of these John Aylworth, Esq., Receiver General of the Court of Augmentations, prays to be exonerated, because, as he alleges in the title of his account, "in very many of them no distress can be taken, and in the rest he requires the aid of the Court of Exchequer, inasmuch as he is not sufficient of himself to collect the arrears"—a tolerably complete dilemma for a man in his position. Then comes the list of defaulters, among whom those connected with "Buckeland nuper Monasterium" figure as follows :—

Edward Rogers, Knt., for the tithe of the site of the said late Monastery .. .. vij^{s} vij^{d}

John Windham, Knt., for the annual tithe of the Manor of Hele .. .. lxv^{s}

Alexander Popeham, Esq., Collector of tenements and lands in divers vills .. .. xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

The Vicar of Pawlett, for his pension there xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

The Vicar of Northepetherton, for his pension there xl^{s}

The Vicar of Talland, for his pension there ij^{s}

* Card. Pole's Pension Book, fol. xxxb.

The total amount of arrears from the four Counties is M^{L}M^{L}xj^{li} vij^{s} j^{d}ob., to which Somersetshire contributes the large proportion of DCCCCxiiij^{li} xiiij^{s} ix^{d}ob. To this statement the Receiver adds the note:—"Of the ſaid ſom'e of M^{L}M^{L}xj^{li} vij^{s} j^{d}ob. I will confeſſe to haue receyued the ſom'e of CCCxlvj^{li} x^{s} xj^{d} for that I knowe it to be good and ſuer debte and yett in verey dede I haue receyued no penny therof, but truſt to doo at this next affieſes." Not that he would appear to have had much reason for his hope in regard of the Somerset arrears, for to the end of the Account he has annexed the following most significant note:—"Memor^{d} that the Collectors of the Chantryes in the Countie of Somerſs' haue not this yeare aundſwered nor paied any p'te of their collecc'on nor the Receyvo^{r} knoweth not who be the Collector^{r}s nor where to find theym."—a climax which may challenge comparison with the returns of any period for the exposure which it presents of the hopeless disorder and irremediable confusion into which the atrocious work had fallen, which was not so much an attempt, as was pretended, to enlighten and elevate humanity, as to indulge the prodigality and gratify the rapacity of the basest and most abandoned of mankind.

It is little if at all to be wondered at, that, after this wholesale robbery of ecclesiastical possessions, the fate of our parish Churches themselves appeared to hang doubtfully in the balance; and still less, if possible, that the more seriously minded men of the day hesitated to join a movement, connected with the open violation of most sacred obligations, and associated with much that gave a shock to the ordinary instincts of religion. The more steadily such men examined the acts and the actors in the hideous tragedy, the more they could not fail to reprobate

the one and to abhor and execrate the other. Turn whithersoever they would, fresh evidences of evil met their eyes. Those who recollected the former state of many a locality,—with its House of Religious Brethren or Sisters, the centre of all elevating influences, its safe asylum for the weak and unprotected, its never ceasing offices of intercession, its ungrudging hospitality and generous considerateness to the sick, the sorrowful and the poor, or with its Chapel and constantly officiating priest, oftentimes among the hills and woods, in places remote and of difficult access, but whither the true Christianity of those early days had mercifully followed the lowest and in modern times least regarded of the sons of men, its loving commemoration of ancient piety departed to the recompence of an eternal reward,—and then contrasted all this with the grasping and godless presence of the new master, and the total cessation of all those charities and consolations which the Suppression brought immediately in its train, could not help reverting with feelings of affectionate regret to the days when the old system was in operation, and the blessings of its beneficent rule could be seen and appreciated on every side. The secularization, too, of things hitherto held sacred, the common use of holy objects with which had been associated the highest mysteries of our Faith, could have but the result of brutalizing and degrading the minds of those to whom such sights were offered. "Many private men's parlours," says Heylin, "were hung with Altar Cloths, their tables and beds covered with Copes instead of carpets and coverlids; and many made carousing cups of the sacred Chalices. It was a sorry house, and not worth the naming, which had not somewhat of this furniture in it, though it were only a fair large cushion made of a Cope or Altar Cloth, to

adorn their windows, or make their chairs appear to have somewhat in them of a Chair of State."* With familiarity came the contempt which was but a form of practical atheism. And no long time elapsed before the natural effects of such a state were apparent far and wide. The troublesome reign of Elizabeth and the unquiet rule of the first James were as the hot drops which herald the thunder storm and the crash of elemental war. The overthrow of Church and State in the seventeenth century was the simple result of that shameless violation of right and truth which the sixteenth had so horribly and fearfully witnessed. The miscreants of the one age were the parents of those of the other. The main agent in the ordering of "the unruly wills and affections of sinful men" had been weakened, and, so far as was possible, eradicated from the popular mind. Irreligion took its place. The "hardness of heart, and contempt of God's word and commandment," the "false doctrine, heresy, and schism" of the time, were then, as they are ever, in close concord with "sedition, privy conspiracy, and rebellion." And the fields of Edge Hill, Marston Moor, and Naseby, and the loathsome atrocities which followed, were but the working out of the ancient curse pronounced once for all on the spoilers of Glastonbury and Fountains, of Tintern and S. Albans, of Athelney and Taunton, Muchelney and Buckland. The retrospect of such a history as that which is now ended will not, in the judgment of the writer, be inaptly presented, which, after it has dwelt on the many vicissitudes of a Society, thus attempted to be rescued from unmerited oblivion, and has pursued step after step the aggression

* Hist. of Edw. VI., p. 134.

against its peace and the appropriation, sacrilegious and accursed, of its possessions, shall seek to draw the lesson which the narrative can suggest; to plead even yet for the expiation of the crime, so far as that is possible, by restitution and satisfaction; to remind its reader of that immutable law of the providence of God, that "with what things a man hath sinned with the same also shall he be punished;" and, if he needs a visible proof of the certainty of the declaration, to point to the state of the England of to-day, as a commentary—accurate indeed, how melancholy soever—on those incontrovertible words of holiness and truth.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23.]

. . . . ANDE. W^ms de Erlegh p' salute ai'e Henrici Reg' et Ael . . . . . sui R' Henric & alioru' filioru' & filiaru' suaru' & . . . . conc eis tot^am de Buckland & ecc' de Pereton' cu' . . . . . plantand' & ordinand' p' manu' Tho: Archep'i Avun . . . . . religionem apud Buckland &^c cu' usu eccl'aru' & . . . . . .

[MS. in Off. Armor, L. 17, f. 141.

(In connexion with the extracts from this MS. see the note at page 6.)

Anno d'nice incarnationis 1434. hunc libru' taliter co'pilauit frater Joh'es Stillingflete de no'ibz* fundator' hospitalis s'ci Joh'is Jerusalem in Anglia &c.

[MS. in Off. Armor, L. 17, f. 153.]

BUKLAND: Will'ms de Erlegh p' salute ai'e Regis Henrici & Alienore Regine & filij sui Regis Henrici & alior' filior' & filiar' suar' p' remedio ai'e ip'ius Will'mi & vxoris sue dedit tota' t'ra' de Buklande & ecclia' de Perreton' cu' alijs ecl'ijs et t'ris suis in diu'sz loc' vt patz p' carta' inde confecta' ad plantandu' & ordinandu' p' manu' Thome Archidiaconi a'uncli ip'ius Will'mi de Erlegh *(sic)* Religione' apud Bukland & q^d iid'm Cano'ici sic plantati et ordinati in eod'm loco p'dc'as t'ras & eccl'ias in vsus suos p'p'os in pura' p'petua' *(sic)* elemosina' possiderent.

* Usually intended to represent the contraction for "us."

No. II.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23.]

Will'ms d' Erlegh p'dict' dn's de Driston dedit ad edificand' domu' de B. . . . . cu' eccl'ia de Pereton, cu' o'ibz Capellis membris &c. s's ecc' de Chedsey . . o'i jure q'd fr'es h'ent in eccl'ia de Poulett cu' capella de Huntw^{r}th & Newton Comitis & de Thurlackeston & de Sirdeston & de Newton & eccl'ia de Bekynton & de Kynm'sdon & de Sirston &c.

[MS. in Coll. Armor. L. 17, f. 153b.]

Will'mus de Erlegh p'dc'us dn's de Driston' dedit ad edifica'du' domu' de Bukland cu' eccl'ia Pereton' cu' om'ibz Membris Capellis & p'tin' suis. s'. eccl'ia' de Chedsey q' est me'bru' eius & cu' om'i iure q^{d} ff'res hospital' h'nt v'l hebere debebu't in eccl'ia de Poulet no'ie eccl'ie de Pereton cu' Capella de Huntworth & Capella de neweton Comit' & Capella de Thurlakeston' & capella d' Sirdeston & Capella de Neweton Regis & dedit eccl'ia' de Bekynton' cu' om'ibz p'tin' & ecclia' de Kynm'sdon ac ecclia' de Sirston cm alij pl'ribz t'ris & bonis.

No. III.

[MS. in Coll. Arm., L. 17, f. 153.]

Ip'e (Henricus Rex Anglie II.) ecia' confirmauit domu' de Bukland vt sorores ib'm & non Alibi remanerent.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23.]

Qui tamen religiosi p' interfecc'oe cuiusd^{a}m Scenesca . . . . . ip'ius Will'i d' Erlegh dn's Henric Rex 2 fecit eos . . . . Napoli tunc p'or hospit de S^{ti} Joh'is J'r'm in Angl'. ap . . . . . multoru' & Anglie p'ceru' p' collocandis Ib'm sorores . . . . vt fr'es p'd'ci in nullo alio loco in Angl' retin'ent . . . . . nisi in domo de Buckland.

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 153.]

Quos quid'm Cano'icos postea p' plures annos p' eor' culpa & forisfactura. eo videl't quod quend^{a}m Senescallu'

suu' consangu'em Will'mi de Erlegh' int'fesseru't. [interfecerunt] dn's Rex Henricus II^{s} p' tunc existens fecit amoueri. et f'ri Garn'io de Neapoli tunc p'ori hospitalis sc'i Johis Jher'lm in Anglia apud London consensu Rad'i Cantuar' archeip'i & Reginald' Bathon' ep'i & multor' p'cer' Anglie tam cl'icor' q^{a}m laicor' casd'm t'ras & ecclecias p' collocandis ib'm sororibus donauit ac confirmauit circa a^{os} dni Mill'mo c^{m} lxxx^{m} sub conuenco'ne videli't q^{d} id'm p'or seu sui successores in nulla alia domo sua in Anglia retineret sorores sui ordinis n' in p'dc'a domo de Bukland.

No. IV.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23.]

Que quidem sorores aliq . . . . . in domibus p'ticlaribus &^{c} Canonicos p'dctos in . . . . . Prior tamen p'dict concensu Regio decollarj fecit sorores . . . . .

[MS. in. Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 153]

Que quid'm sorores olim sp' suu' morabant^{r} vz apud Hamton iuxta Kyngeston. apud Kerebrooke & Swynfeld & alijs loc' Deinde frat' Garnerius p'dc'us p'or de consensu regio eosd'm cano'icos tres vz in domu' hospital' p'd'ci ad petic'one' eor' suscepit et h'itu' eiusd'm hospital' tribuit & duos in p'oratu' de Tanton' ac vnu' in p'oratu' de Berlith' & vnu' in monast'iu' sc'i Barth'i de Smithfeld apud London Reginaldus ep'us Bathon' p'dc'us ip'is hec petentibz & obtantibz in Religione cano'icor' Recipi fecit postmodu' vero hijs p'act' p'fatus ffrat' Garnarius p'or Sorores in diu's' p'cept'ijs ordinis sui in Anglia vt p'd'cit^{r} existentes vt p'dicit^{r} congregari & ap^{d} Bukland de consensu ac volu'tate Regio necnon consensu o'im quor' int'fuit collocari fecit videl't Sororem Milsante' apud Standon Sororem Joh'am apud Hamton. Sororem Basiliam apud kerebrooke Sororem Amabiliam & Sorore' Amisia' de Malketon' apud Shenegey Sorore' Xp'mam d' hoggeshawe apud hoggeshawe. Sorore' Petronillam apud Gosford et Sororem agnetam apud clanefelde vt in eod'm loco de Bukland eod'm Sorores & sue succ' deo inp'p'm deseruirent.

No. V.

[MS. Cott. Nero, E. vi., f. 467b.]

Nomina Prioru' hospitalis sancti Joh'is Jerl'm in Anglia.

Frat' Garnarius de Neapoli erat primus Prior tempore fundaco'is Soror' domus de Bukland temp'e Regis Henrici sc'di qui congregauit sorores tunc p' diu'sa loca disp'sas ac temp'e d'ne ffine prime Priorisse ib'm que Priorissa vixit in ip'o statu .lx. annis. Iste erat Prior p' pl'res annos ante passionem Sc'i Thome Martiris & obijt vltimo die Augusti

Frat' Ric'us de Turk Prior temp'e eiusdem Priorisse obijt xij^{mo}. die Augusti.

Frat' Rad'us de Dyna Prior temp'e eiusdem Priorisse obijt xiij^{mo}. die Maij.

Frat' Gilb'tus de Veer Prior temp'e eiusdem Priorisse dedit sororibz domus . . Bukland C.s' annue pens' exeunt' de Man'io de Reynh^{a}m & obijt xiij^{mo}. die Augusti

Frat' Hugo de Alneto Prior temp'e eiusdem Priorisse obijt xxiij^{o} die Nouembr'

Frat' Alanus Prior & Ep'us de Bangor' temp'e eiusdem Priorisse obijt xix^{o} die Maij

Frat' Rob'tus Thesaurarius Prior tempore eiusdem Priorisse obijt xxvj^{to} die Octobr'

Frat' Terricus de Nussa obijt .xxj^{o}. die Decembr' Anno D'ni Mill'imo CC^{mo}. xxxvij^{mo}.

Frat' Rob'tus de Maunby Prior obijt xiiij^{o} die mens' Octobr'

Frat' Rogerus de Veer Prior dedit eccl'ie de Clerkenwell vna' de sex ydrijs in quibz Jhesus conu'tit aquam in vinu' Anno D'ni Mill'imo CC^{mo}. lxix^{o} & obijt xv die ffebruar' Anno D'ni Mill'imo CC^{mo}. lxx^{o}.

Frat' Petrus de Hakh^{a}m Prior tempore Regis E primi obijt xj^{o} die Januar'

Frat' Simon Botard Prior obijt iij^{o} die Maij.

Frat' Helyas Smethton' Prior obijt xxvij die April'

Frat' Steph'us ffulburn' Prior obijt primo die Januar'

Frat' Joseph Chauncy Prior obijt xix^{o} die Maij Iste fieri fecit Capellam d'ni Prioris in domo de Clerkenwell temp'e E p^{r}mi a conquestu

Frat' Walterus Prior adquisiuit p'ceptorias de Quenyngton' & Shenegey & plures terras & ten' & obijt xxvij^{o} die Augusti

Frat' Will's de Haunle Prior fieri fecit claustrum de Clerkenwell Anno D'ni Mill'imo. CC^mo. lxxxiiij^to Et regni regis E primi xij° Et obijt iiij^to die ffebruar' Anno D'ni sup^a d'co

Frat' Ric'us Pauley Prior tempore Regis E filij E obijt iij°. die Augusti

Frat' Rob'tus de Dyna Prior obijt xxiiij^to die Nouembr'

Frat' Will's Tothall Prior obijt xij° die Octobr' Anno D'ni Mill'imo CCC^mo. xviij°. lr'a d'nicalis. D.

Frat' Thomas Larchier Prior obijt xxviij° die Augusti Anno D'ni Mill'imo CCC^mo. xxix°. hic dedit sororibz de Bukland xl.s' Annuatim imp'p'm p'cipiend' de Man'io de Hidon' p'tin' ad Templecombe

Frat' Leonardus de Tyb'tis Prior obijt vltimo die Januar' temp'e huius. bona Templarior' data sunt Hospitalarijs

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No. VI.

[Lib. Alb. Well. ff. 368b, 369.]

De Eccl'ia Sc'i Decumani

Omnibz x'pi fidelibz ad quos p'sens Scriptum puen'it Simon Brito fil' Sim' Briton' salt' in d'no Ad vni'sitatis u're noticiam volo p'uenire me pro salute anime mee et patris mei et matris mee et omniu' an'cessor' et successor' meor' concessisse et dedisse deo et Sc'o Andree ap'lo de Well' Et Rain' Bathon' ep'o et om'ibz Sucessoribz suis Eccl'iam Sc'i Decumani in p'petua' Wellen' eccl'ie p'bendam. lib'am et quietam ab om'i sec'lari seruicio et exacc'one Ita ut p'nominatus dn's R. Bathon' Epc' et om'es successores sui Inp'petuum de p'fata eccl'ia. Sicut de qualibet alia Wellen' Eccl'ie p'benda p' voluntate sua ordine't et disponant. Quod ut ratum et firmu' p'seueret in posterum. p'sentis sc'pti attestaco'e et Sigilli mei apposico'ne duxi corroborandum. Hijs testibz Mag'ro A. Welln' decano Mag'ro Rob'to de Geldeford Archidiac' Jocel' capll'o. Magistro Rog'o de Doueliz Will'mo de Cerda capll'o. Hug' de Well' cl'ico. Rog'o de Godestowe. Henr' de Traci. Hamel' de Columbar'. Ric' fil' Bern'. Steph'o de Waletun' Militibz D'no Hug' Mag'ro fr'm Hospital' de Bokelonde Will'o et Jord' Capll'is et fr'ibz hospital' de Bokelande. Will'o Britone fr'e p'd'ci Sim' Ada de Ra'mesb'ia. Helya fil' Ric' Daniele et Florido fr'ibz. Rad. fil' Rob'ti Serlone et multis alijs.

No. VII.

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 148b.]

KEREBROOKE.—Matildis Comitissa de Clare vxo^{r} Will'i comit.' de Clare ac mat' Ric'i Comit' de clare dedit ——— ——— so'rib' dom' de Bukland xiij^{s} iiij^{d} solvend' annuati' p' man' p'ceptorijs ib'm p'o temp'e existent' & alia pl'ra bona Hec donac'o f'ca fuit apud Westmon'. A° qui'to rr' Ric'i p'mi. & A° d'ni Mill'mo c° lxxxxij° & tempore ff'ris Ala' p'oris hospitalis. in Anglia & Ep'i de Bangor.

No. VIII.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23.]

Deinde frater Hugo de Alneto p'or Hospit' p^{r}d' concensu fr . . . . . d'ne Lorette comitisse Leicestrie ad inveniend' j fr'em Capella . . . celebrantem miss^{a}m gloriose Virginis; s's in excambio p' ter' alijs . . . .

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17 f. 153b.]

Deinde ffrat' Hugo de Alneto p'or Hospitall' p'dci de co'i consensu & volluntate ffr'm Capituli concessit d'ne Lorrette Comitisse Leycestrie ad inveniendu' vnu' ffr'm Capellanu' cotidie Celebrat'um missa' gloriose virginis Maria [Marie] [in] Ecl'ia Soror' p'dcar' p' c'tis t'ris redit' alijs quc p'dca Comitissa contulit domui hospital' sc'i Joh'is in p'p'os vsus soror' p'dcar' de Bukland conuertend' Ita q^{d} p'd'ctus ffrat' Capellanus nulli alij [alio] s'uic'o deputabit^{r} n' p'p'e [proprio] gloriose v'ginis minist'io in eccl'ia p'd'ca.

No. IX.

[Cart. 11 Hen. III, p. 2, m. 6]

P' Hospital' de Bocland. Rex &c. Salt'. Insp^{e}eximus cartam Lorette quonda' Comitisse Leycestr' f'cam D'o & b'e Marie & s'co Joh'i Bapt'e & b'atis paup'ib*z* s'ce domus hospital' Ierosol' ad sust'ntaco'em sorror' de Bocland d'o s'uienciu' in h' uerba. Not' sit om'ib*z* X'pi fidelib*z* tam p'sentib*z* q^{a}' futuris hoc Script' visuris v'l audituris q'd ego Loretta comitissa Leycestr' dedi & concessi D'o & b'e Marie & s'co Joh'i Bapt'e & b'is paup'ib*z* domus hospital'

Ierosol' ad sust'ntaco'em soror' de Boclaund D'o s'uienciu' & ad inueniend' quemdam cap'll'm fr'em in eade' domo qui cotidie & p'petuo missam in honore b'e Virginis Marie i' maiori eccl'ia ap' Bokland. ad altare b'e Virginis celebret p' salute anime mee & d'ni Rob'i viri mei Com' quonda' Leicestr' & p' salute a'iar' p'ris & m'ris mee & om'iu' ancessor' & successor' meor' tota' t'ram meam de Noteston' & totam t'ram meam de Ynesford cit^{a} aq^{a}m & vlt^{a} aq^{a}m & lxiiij ac^{a}s de d'nico meo sup' Ruwedon' & totam t'ram meam de Ridescot' & de Hele & de Chorlecot' & de Tunecot'. & de Boteburn' & totam t'ram q^{a}' tenet Philipp' at Viam cu' ho'ibz p'd'cas t'ras tenentibz. & p't'ea cent' ac^{a}s de d'nico meo in brem'esmore & boscu' meu' qui uocat' Anc^{r}wd' & vnu' ferling' ad Roitheye cu' om'ib' p'tin' suis in man'io de Toustok' cu' pasturis & om'ib' aliis ad p'd'cas t'ras p'tin'tibz. Et p't'ea om'imoda' com'unam int' Ten'ta mea vbiqz lib'e & q'te h'end' & possidend' in p'petuam & puram elemosina' sic' ulla elemos' lib'ius & quiecius dari potest. & vt h' mea donac'o futuris temp'ibz p'petue firmitatis Robur optineat. eam p'sentis sc^{r}p' munimi'e cu' sigilli mei app'oe dign' duxi roborare. Hiis testibz Mag'ro Lamb'to subdecano Wal'nsi d'no Philippo de Alben'. d'no Rog'o de La Cuche. Ada' fil' Hondebrand' Mag'ro Vmfr' Canon Cycestr' Mag'ro Regin' de Mereston'. Will'o capell'o de Bukingeh'. Walt'o cl'rico de Langeh'. Thom' cl'rico de Glouecestr'. Nich' de Wyleya. & aliis. Nos hanc donat' & concessione' rata' & g^{a}tas h'entes. p'd'co hospitali & sororib' p'd'cis eam p' nob' & h'edibz n'ris concedim' & co'firmamus. T. ut sup^{a} Dat' ut Sup^{a}. (Dat' p' manu' R. Cycestr' ep'i &c. ap' Westm. xvj die Jul' anno &c. xj^{o}.)

No. X.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23.]

Rad' filius Will'i de Bruuerie dedit Sor'ib' p'd' ecc' de Toland.

Alan' filius Ant'i Russell eccl^{a}m de Danington' in dioc. Linc.

Warin' de Aula, Bodescombe &c.

Ascuid Musard Chiltcombe Wysang^{r} & Bochelcotte.

Rob'tus Arundale, Halse &c.

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 153b.]

Rad'us filius Will'i de Briwere dedit sororibz ib'm ecclia' de Toland cu' p'tin'

Alanus filius Anti Russell dedit ecclia' de donington' in dioc' Lyncolne p'tin' eisd'm

Warinus de Aula dedit Bodescombe p'tin' eisd'm sororibus

Ascuid Musard dedit Chiltcombe Wysangre & Bochelcote

Rob'tus Arundale dedit halse c'm p'tin.

No. XI.

[Pat. 12 Hen. III., m. 2.]

P' Sororibz de Bocland.—Dn's R' i'tuitu d'i co'cessit Sororibz de ordine Hospital' sc'i Joh'is Jrl'm ap' Bocland d'o S'uientibz & S'uit'is qd singul' sept' capiant i' p'co d'ni R' de Neuton' de mortuo bosco eiusd' p'ci vna' carectatam busce ad focu' suu'. Et qz c'pete'tius i' estate q^{a}' i' hyeme cape' pot'nt p'dc'am busca'. co'cessit eis d'ns R' qd a pasch' usqz ad festu' sc'i Pet^{i} ad Vincula busca' p'dcam capiant i' p'dco p'co ad num'm carectar' q' de toto anno eis c'petu't scd'm c'cess' n'ram p'd'cam. In cui' &c. T' R ap' Neubir' iij. die Aug.'

Et mand' Ric'o de Wrotha' qd eas p'd'cam busca' cap'e p'mittat sic' p'd'cm est. T' ut S^{a}.

No. XII.

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 153.]

Deinde ffrat' Terricus de Mussa p'or hospital' p'd'ci de concilio ffr'm gen'alis Capit'li dedit d'cis sororibz de Bukland & successoribz suis xxx^{ta} & octo m^{a}rcas duodecim solidos & octo denarios st'lingor' annuati' recipiend' inp'p'm ad duos anni t'minos vz ad f'm Pasche decem & noue' ma'cas sex solidos & quatuor denarios. de p'ceptorie d' Bukland qui p' tempore fu'it. ita q^{d} p'ceptor de p'd'cis xxxviij ma'c' xij^{s} & viij^{d} a d'co Terrico & successoribus suis h'ebit allocac'one' sup' Responc'one sua soluenda.

No. XIII.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23.]

Conseque'tr fr' Rog'us de Ver p'or Hospit'lis p'dict in adventu suo ad . . . . . p' statu dom' ordinavit &c.

[MS. in Coll, Armor, L. 17, f. 153b.]

Consequent' vo ffrat' Roge'us de Ver P'or Hospital' p'd'ci in aduentu suo ad Bukland p' statu domus videndo invenit distancia' & discordia' int' p'orem p'ceptorem & P'orissa' ac conuentu' dom' de Bukland p' diu's' Rebz d'cas Priorissa' & Sorores tangentibz Et assensu Capit'li sui de Melcheburn' ad p'petua' pace' int' ip'os s'uanda' ordinauit int' cet'a qd p'dc'e P'orissa & Conuentus h'ebunt Senescallu' suu' ad mensa' P'ceptoris & unu' garc'one' sedentem cu' garconibz P'ceptoris & erit ibi cotidie in mensa nisi dux'it h'ue s'm dicti Senescalli & ad f'm sc'i Mich'is cu' tinere volu'it Senescallus Curia' de la hele h'ebit de selario [celerario] qui'qz albos panes & costrellos suos plenos s'uicie et ad id'm f'm p' Cur' de kynm'sdon' [et] d' Primmilegh' tenend' h'ebit totid'm & ad le hokeday totide' Equitatura' vero & om'ia alia necc'ia h'ebit de lib'ac'oe & ordinaco'e P'orissa [P'orisse] & conuent'. Et si in aliquo deliquerit licebit P'orisse ea' [eu'] defendere ne de bonis ear' intomittat sed non eu' remouere absqz p'ore. It'm h'ebunt saserdote' s'clarem ad celebrandu' p' ani'a Sororis ffine quondam P'orisse ib'm & a'iabz fundator' & b'nfactor' d'ce dom' qui erit in mensa cu' ffr'ibz & lectu' in thalamo int' sas'dotes & cl'icos & p' Relicu' tempus scd'm dispoc'one' P'orisse, ita qd P'ceptor he'at allocac'one' de qui'q' marcr' p' mensa d'ci sacerdot' & ecia' vni' ffr'is celebrant' missa' b'e Marie & ecia' tres solidos ad f'm sc'i Mich'is p' cl'ico de Capella.

No. XIV.

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 156.]

Edwardus Rex Anglie a conquestu p'mus concessit —— vnu' mercatu' singul' sept' p' die' Lune apud Man'iu' suu' de halse in Com' Som's.

[Cart. 18 Edw. I., m. 19, n. 80.]

P' P'ore hospitalis S'ci Joh'is Jer'lm in Angl'. R' archiep'is &c. salt'm. Sciatis nos concessisse & hac carta n'ra confirmasse dil'co nob' in X'po f'ri Will'o de Henleye Priori Hospital' S'ci Joh'is Jer'lm in Angl' q'd ip'e & successores sui imp'petuu' h'eant vnum m'catum sing'lis septimanis p' diem Lune apud man'ium suu' de Hause in Com' Sum's'. Nisi m'catum illud sit ad nocumentu' vicinar' m'cator'. Concessim' eciam &c. ——Quare volum' & firmit' p'cipim' p' nob' & h'edib' n'ris q'd p'dcus Prior & successores sui imp'petuu' h'eant p'd'cm m'catu' apud man'ium suu' de Hause cu' om'ibz lib'tatibz & lib'is consuetudinibz ad hui'modi m'catum p'tinentibz. Nisi &c. ——— Hiis testibz ven'abilib' p'ribz G. Wygorn' R. Bathon' & Wellen. A. Dunolmens' & Th. Menevens' Ep'is. Edmundo fr'e n'ro. Will'o de Valencia auunc'lo n'ro. Gilb'to de Clare Com' Glouc' & H'tf'. Henrico de Lacy comite Linc'. Humfrido de Bohun comite Heref' & Essex. Rog'o de Bigod comite Norf' & Marescallo Angl'. Ottone de Grandisono. Petro de Chaumpnent. Ric'o de Bosco & aliis. Dat' p' manu' n'ram apud Westm. vj die Maij.

No. XV.

[E Reg. Bubw. fol. cxlviij, cxlviijb.]

Om'ibz x'pi fidelibz presentem cartam visuris vel audituris Ricardus de Plesseto miles d'ns de Nyweton' forestarior' eternam in d'no sal'tm. Nouerit vniu'sitas v'ra me pro deo & salute ai'e mee & Will'i de Plesseto quond^{a}m Auunculi mei & p' a'iabz patris & matris mee et an'cessor' et successor' meor' & ai'abz o'im fidelium defunctor' dedisse concessisse & hac p'senti carta mea p' me & heredibz meis siue assignatis meis in puram lib'am & p'petuam elimosinam confirmasse d'no Will'mo de Hylpynton *(sic)* cap^{o} & om'ibz successoribz suis diuina p'petuis temporibz celebrat^{r}is in capella b'ti Petri infra curiam meam de Nyweton forestarior' totum mesuagium quod d'ns Will's de Greynton' cap^{nus} quond^{a}m tenuit in Nyewton sup^{a}dict' cu' om'ibz domibz curtillag' & gardino & cu' quad^{a}m crofta coniuncta & inclusa continente Nouem acras. et cu' quinqz acris t're arabilis & dimid' q^{u}r' due iacent in ynymer'. & tres acre & dimidia iacent in cult^{r}a que vocat^{r} Twentyacres. Et vna' croftam continen' duo-

decim acras. & iacet iux^{a} Mycheleschirche que vocat^{r} Ellenheye. et nouem acras prati de p^{a}to meo in la Heymore iux^{a} parcu' de Northperton' ex parte orien^{li} cu' o'ibz p'tinen' suis. Et pascum ad sex boues vbiqz cu' bobus meis. & ad sex vaccas p'petuis temporibz in pastura mea de Lyntemor'. & q'd o'ia alia ai'alia sua eant & pascant cu' ai'alibz ho'im' meor' in co'i past^{r}a. Pret'ea volo & concedo p' me & he'dibz meis q'd p'dc's Will's & o'es successores sui h'eant decet'o om'es decimas maiores & mi'ores & eciam o'es obuenco'es p'uenientes de cur' mea sup^{a}d'ca. & de om'ibz d'nicis meis de Nyewton vna cu' decimis p'uenien' de Parco de Northperton' adeo lib'e quiete & integre imp'petuu' sicut Will's de Greynton cap^{nus} p'decessor p'd'ci Will'i cap^{ni} suo p'petuo plenius [&] liberi' p'cepit. Habend' & tenend' d'co Will'o cap^{no} & successor' suis d'cm mesuag' cu' domibz curtillag' & gardino & cu' croftis t'ris arabilibz p^{a}tis past^{r}is decimis maioribz & mi'oribz & om'ibz alijs obuenco'ibz & p'tinen' suis. quocu'qz modo nominent^{r} sicut lib'am puram & p'petuam elimosinam lib'e quiete & integre de me heredibz meis siue assignat' meis imp'petuu'. excepta quad^{a}m porco'e bladi mat^{r}ci eccl'ie ex antiquo debita. Et ego d'cus Ricardus de Plesseto & heredes mei siue assignati mei totu' p'd'cm mesuag' cu' domibz curtillag' gardin' & croftis t'ris arabilibz pratis past^{r}is deci's p'd'cis & obuenco'ibz & o'imod' alijs p'tin' suis p'd'co Will'o & successoribz suis sicut lib'am pura' & p'petua' eli'am ad Cantariam p'd'ce capelle b'i Petri sicut p'd'cm est p'petuis te'poribz sustinendam tenem^{r} cont^{a} o'es ho'ies & feminas mortales imp'petuu' Warantizare et defend'e. & de om'ibz sectis curiar' & hundredor' acquietare. In cuius rei testio'm huic p'senti carte mee p' me & heredibz meis siue assign' meis sigillu' meu' apposui. Hijs testibz. ffr'e Ricardo de Bramford' tunc P'ceptore de Bocland. d'no Galfrido de Wrockeshale milite. d'no Jacobo de Plesseto. Ric'o de Nyewton Joh'e de Marysco Petro de Hamme. Joh'e Mauger' & multis alijs.

No. XVI.

[E Reg. Drok. fol. cccb.]

Confirmac'o cui'da' Cantar' in capella de Lokynton.

Vniu'sis s'ce mat'is eccl'ie filiis p'sentes l'ras i'sp^{e}tur' Joh' p'miss' di'a Bath' &

Wellen' Ep'c' salt'm in d'no sempit'na'. Nou'it' nos i'str'm q'dda' no' cancellatu' no' abolitu' n^{c} i' sui p'te aliq^{a} viciatu' de v'bo ad v'bu' s'b tenore q' seq't^{r} i'spexisse. Cu' motu' e'et pl'itu' i' Cur' d'ni Reg' i't' Galfr'm Samuel & Will'm filiu' ei' pete'tes ex p'te vna. & Is' la Louwe p'orissa' & con^{tu}' soror' de Boclo'de defe'de'tes ex alt'a, s'r eo q'd p'd'ci Gaf'd' & Will's celeb^{a}co'em d'ior' i' Capella const^{u}cta i' Cur' d'cor' G. & W. ap^{d} Lokynton' i' p'och' de Kynem'sdon' a p'd'cis p'orissa & con^{tu} p' p'petuu' vicar' de Kynem'sdon' ter i' septi^{a}na s' f'i petieru't ta'de' p' pl'imas alt'co'es, ide' pl'itu' int' p'tes p'd'cas i' hu'c mod' amicab'l'r conq'eu^{t}, vidz q'd p'd'ca p'orissa & con^{tus} p' se & succ'oribz suis p'd'cis. G. & .W. & h'ed' suis seu assig^{a}tis d'ior' celeb^{a}co'em i' p'd'ca capella celeb^{a}nd' p' p'petuu' vicar' ecc'e de Kynem'sd' t' i' septi^{a}na recog^{o}u'u't & concess'u't. p' ten' q'd p'd'ca p'orissa & con^{tus} tene't de feodo p'd'cor' G. & W. i' lokynton', vidz q^{a}l't septi^{a}na i'p'petuu' p' dies d'nice, m'cur' & ven'is cu' d'ns v'l d'na ibid' p'sens fu'it. Et si aliq^{o} ca'u nc^{a}cio cm'ge'te id' vicar' ad d'cam capella' p' aliq^{e}' die' d'nicu' ad missa' celeb^{a}nd' venire no' pot'it, nich'o' [nihilominus] aliq's capell's p' p'd'cm vicar' ad memo^{a}m de die dicend' aq^{a}' & pane' b'ndice'd' & faci^{d}' m^{t}tet^{r}. & c' p' off'o illi' diei d'nice no' co'pleto plenar', d'i'a celeb^{a}c'o p' p'd'cm vicar' i' c^{a}stino ibid' p'ficiat^{r}. Ad ha'c d'i'or' celeb^{a}co'em p'petuo consti'end' & faci^{d}' v^{t} p'd'cm est, d'ci. G. & W. obliga't se & h'edes suos v'l assig^{a}tos i' J. q^{a}r fr'mti solue'd' p' p'd'co off'o faci^{d}' p' annu' p'd'co vicar' de Maner' suo de lokynton ad f'm s'ci Mich' a'nuati', absz o'i con^{a}dcco'e v'l i'pedim'to alic' mortal' i'p'petuu' In cui' rei test' p'senti sc'pto i' mod' cirog^{a}phi conf'co alt'nati' sigilla sua s't appensa, hiis test' d'nis Joh' de Erle Thom' de Welleslegh' Rob'o de Panes milit'. Will'o Wazon. Joh' Page, Henr. de Niwel', Joh'e de Caulesworth' Thom' de s'co vigore, Walt'o Toue' & al'. Dat' i' pleno capit'lo d'cor' P'orisse & con^{t}' de Boclo'de die lune p'x^{a} p' f'm Sc'e ffid' v'gis, Anno r'. r'. Edwardi xxix^{o}. Nos g' Joh' dei gr'a Ep'us s^{a}d'cus, p'd'cam co'po'em i't' p'tes p'd'cas q^{a}te' rite p'cessit rata' h'entes p'it' & accepta', ip'am auc^{a}te dioces^{a}a tenore p'senc' i' dei no'ie conf'mam'. In cui' rei test' Sigill' n'rm p'sent' e' appens'. Dat' ap^{d} Banewell' xix^{o} die mens' Noue'br'. Anno d'ni M^{o}. CCC^{mo}, vicesi'o octauo, Et Cons' n're vicesimo.

No. XVII.

[E Reg. Rad. ff. x, xb.]

Mandatu' Cur' Cant' p' P'ore & frib' S'ci Joh' Jerl'm in Angl'.

Officialis Cur' Cantuar', discreto viro mag'ro Ric'o de Thistelden' ven'ab'lis pat's d'ni Radulphi dei gra' Bathon' & Wellen' Ep'i officiali salt' in auctore salutis. Ex p'te religiosor' viror' p'oris & f'rm Hospital' s'ci Joh'is Jerl'm in Angl' nob' extitit intimatu', q'd cu' vos p'tenderetis p'fatos Religiosos ad exhibendu' titulu' si quem haberent in eccl'iis de Northpederton, Durston, Halse, Bromfeld, & Kynemersdon' Bathon' & Wellen' dioc' quas in vsus p'prios canonice possidebant & possederant ab antiquo. & ad p'stand' ven'abili p'ri p'd'co obedi'am raco'e eccl'iar' p'd'car' cora' vob' d'ci pat's co'missario speciali ad iudiciu' euocatos, pars eor'd'm Religiosor' cora' vob' in iudic'o sufficient' comparens, vt sibi copia' co'missionis et c'tificatorij citac'onis p' vos in hac p'te v^t^ p'mittit^r^ p'tensar' fieri fac'etis a vobis cu' instancia debita postulauit sz vos ip'am p'tem sic petente' eff'cualit' exaudir' aut copia' hi' eid'm face'e no' curastis sz d'cos Religiosos co'tumaces cu' no' essent p'nu'ciastis, ip'os qz p' hi' ficta co'tumacia in immoderata pecunie su'ma mulctastis, ip'amqz mulctam a p'ceptor' fr'ibz & sororibz dom' d'cor' Religiosor' de Boclaunde d'ce dioc' leuanda' fieri decreuistis & leuari mandastis in d'cor' Religiosor' p'iudiciu' nō' modicu' & g^a^uame'. Vn' ex p'te eor'dem senciencin' se ex hiis & eor' quol't indebite p'g^a^uari, ad sede' Ap'licam & p'tuico'e' Cur' Cantuar' extitit l'ie appellatu'. Quare vob' inhibem' & p' vos o'ibz & sing'lis quibz ius exigit inhiberi volum' et mandamus Ne pendente in Cur' Cant' hi' tuitor' appll'o'is negocio quicq^a^' hac occasione in d'ce p'tis appellantis p'iud'iu' attemptetis vel attemptent faciat' aut faciant aliqualit' attemptari, quomin' libera' habeat appellaco'is sue p'secuco'em p'ut iustu' fu'it vt'usqz. Tenore ecia' p'senciu' p'emptoric vos citam' q'd compareatis cora' nob' v'l n'ro co'missario in eccl'ia b'e mar' de Aldemar' Lond' p'xi'o die iuridico post Octab' s'ci Hillar' ep'i in d'co tuitor' appl'ois negocio p'cessuri, facturi & recepturi q'd iusticia suadebit. De die vero recepco'is p'senciu' & quid in p'missis fece'tis, nos vel n'rm co'missariu' dictis die & loco c'tificetis p' l'ras v'ras pat' har' s'iem co'tine'tes. Dat' Lond'. vj k'l' Octobr'. Anno d'ni milli'o .CCC^mo^. vicesimo Nono.

No. XVIII.

[E Reg. Rad. ff. cxxvj, cxxvj b.]

Excellentissimo p'ncipi & d'no suo d'no Edwardo &c. Rad'us &c. D'inaco'is v're l'ras tenore' qui sequit^{r} s'ri' in v^{to} br'i recepim' continentes, Edwardus &c. Quar' l'rar' p'textu infor^{a}co'em qua' potuim' recepim' de om'ibz & sing'lis in eisd'm contentis & i'uenim' q'd P'or & f'res Hospital' s'ci Joh'nis Jerl'm optinent in n'ra dioc' in p'p'os vs' ecc'ias de Halse que valet p' a'nu' .x.^{li}. de Durston' que valet p' a'nu' cu' decimis de Coggelode iux^{a} Boclande octo marcas. de Northpederton' que valet p' annu' Sexaginta marcas. Et de Kynem'sdone que valet p' a'nu' viginti q^{a}tuor m^{a}rcas. H'ent eciam in n'ra dioc', aduocaco'es ecc'iar' de Ellesworthe taxat' in sex marc' cu' dimidia. De Tolonde taxat' in tribz marc' & Hethfeld taxat' in q'nqz m^{a}rcis. P'cipiu't insup' pensio'em a'nuam duor' solid' de cap'lla de Dodyngdon' in p'ochia de Netherstauweye. Pensio'em a'nua' duor' solidor' de ecc'ia de Toulonde. Pensio'em a'nuam viginti solidor' de ecc'ia de Bekyngton' & pensio'em a'nuam vni' marce de ecc'ia de Poulet que o'ia & sin'gla ad hospitale p'd'cm p'tinent & p'ti'ueru't in n'ra dioc' ab antiquo Eccc'ias vero seu b'nficia in p'p'os vsus v'l de aduocaco'e sua porco'es seu pensio'es ro'e t'rar' que condam fueru't te'plar' no' obtine't in n'ra dioc' q'd sciam'. Eecc'ia Templi Bristoll' qua' h'ent in p'p'os vs' de qua p'cipiu't a'nuati' p' man' vicarij ibid'm duas marcas du'taxat excepta. Ad h' q' d'ns Icherius de Concoreto cano'ic' Sar' nup' sedis Ap'lice nu'cius & collector p'ncipal' p'mor' fructuu' b'nfic'or' vacanciu' de quibz in v'ris l'ris plenior fit menc'o hi'. p'mos fruct' maior' & pinguior' b'nfic'or' in n'ra dioc' d'ca b'nficia tu'c obtinentibz vendidit & p'ut s' expedire videbat^{r} disposuit de eisd'm, q^{a}ntu' de ip'is p'mis fructibz in n'ra dioc' est leuatu'. n^{e} si aliquid v'l q^{a}ntu' inde adhuc a retro existit plene a temp'e recepco'is hi' v'rar' l'rar' no' potuim' informari. n^{e} ad p'sens v'ram d'naco'em in hac p'te distincte & ap'te c'tificare possum' iux^{a} v'rar' hi' continencia' l'rar', de quo nos h're dignet^{r} si libeat excusatos v'ra regia celsitudo, qua' Rex Regu' p' sua clemencia dirigat p' successus p'sp'os & felices. Dat' apud Banewelle. xxvij die mens' Augusti anno d'ni mill'io CCC xxxv.

No. XIX.

[E Reg. Rad. fol. ccccxxiiij.]

Tresch' sire & reu'ent piere en dieu P^{r} ceo q' nos sumes acordez oue la p'sone de Bekyngton' en droyt du plee qe fust entre nous en la court n're seign^{r} le Roy deuaunt ses Justices del co'e bank' p^{r} les vynt souldz dun annuyte duwe as noz seors de Bokeland & s^{r} ceo la dite p'sone ad lacquitaunce noz dites seors come appent de toutz ses arrerages de la dite annuyte quele acq'taunce auoms acceptable deu's nous Vous p'oms s^{r} q' le sequestr' ou altre execucion, si nulle y soit en icele p'tie deu's la dite p'sone p' v're reu'ende pat'nitee comande, vous plese relesser & la dite p'sone lonement deliu'er p^{r} amo^{r} des nous. Dieu tresch' s^{r} vous deigne bone vie & long' Esc'pt a Lundres le xij io^{r} Doctobr' P' le v're p'or del Hospital en Englet're.

Al treshon^{r}able s^{r} & Reu'end piere en dieu leuesq*z* de Baa & de Well'.

xj kln' Nouembr'.

No. XX.

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 156b.]

Henric' Rex Anglie iij' [iiij'] ampliauit & pleniu' declarauit Carta' q^{a}m henric' Rex Anglie p'genitor suus concessit P'orisse & sororib*z* domus de Bukeland videli't q^{d} ip'e quali't septi'ana imp'p'm Cap'ent in p'co suo de Pederton' tres carectatas busce p' focali suo & ista v'ba tres carectatas busce de spinis alno & arabil' ad focu' suu' & postea inveniab't^{r} q^{d} p'd'ce p'orissa & sorores non erant capaces d'ce concessionis eo q' sunt obedienciare P'oris hospital' s'ci Joh'is Jher'lm in Anglia i'o custodes d'ni Regis i'bm d'cam concessione' ip'as h'ere non p'misit. Quare Rex Henric' q^{a}rtus p'd'cus de gr'a spc'ali a^{o} sui x^{o} consessit p' salute a'ie sue ac Joh'ne Consort' sue n^{c}non & Maria [Marie] Consort' sue defuncte q^{d} p'or hospital' & succ' sui imp'p'm p' se & s'uient' suos de Buk' p'cipiant qualit septiana iij Carectatas subbosci infra p'cu' suu' de Pederton' v*z* Thorn' aller mapell' & hasell ad vsum & p'ficuu' d'car' P'orisse & soror' & succ' suar' imp'p'm Et q^{d}. queli't carectata subbosci p'd'ci existat de tractu sex equor' & q^{d}

ip'i p'st'nant succidant & carient ad voluntate' sua' subboscu' p'dcu' quolit a° a festo An'unc' b'e Marie vsqz f'm o'im scor' q^d^ antea erat concess' eis n' a Pasca vsqz f'm s'ci Petri ad uincula. absqz impedimento seu p'turbac'one aliquali officiarior' d'ni Regis.

[Pat. 10 Hen. IV., p. 1, m. 19.]

P' Priorissa & sororibz de Bucland. R. Om'ibz ad quos &c. sal'tm. Sciatis q'd cum dil'ce nob' in X'po Priorissa & sorores ordinis hospitalis S'ci Joh'is Jerl'm de Bucland nobis monstrau'int qualit' nobilis p'genitor n'r Henr' nup' Rex Angl' p' cartam suam quam confirmauim' concessit sororibz domus p'dce tunc deo s'uientibz & s'uituris qd ip'e quali't septimana imp'p'm cap'ent in parco suo de Perton iam vocato Pederton tres carectatas busce p' focali suo p' ista v'ba tres carectatas busce de spinis Alno & arabl' ad focum suu' ac p' eo qd competencius extitit ad capiend' buscam p'dcam in estate q^a^m in yeme concessit eis qd ip'e cap'ent buscam p'dcam in parco p'dco a Pascha vsqz festum S'ci Petri Ad uincula ad num'u' carectar' que eis de toto anno p'tinerent iuxta concessionem p'dcam p'ut in carta & confirmac'oe p'dcis plenius continet^r^ qd qz vigore concessionis & confirmac'ois p'dcar' p'fate Priorissa & sorores in pacifica possessione oi'm p'dcar' carectar' busce infra parcum p'dcm annuatim p'ut in concessione & confirmac'oe p'dcis fit mencio a tempore confecco'is car'dem extiterunt absqz aliquo impedimento seu g^a^uamine n'ri vel p'genitor' n'ror' p'dcor' aut Custodum parci p'dci qui p' tempore fuerunt seu alior' Ministror' vel officiarior' ibidem quor'cumqz quousqz iam tarde q'd nunc Custos n'r ibidem ip'as buscam p'dcam aut aliquam parcellam eiusdem iuxta concessionem & confirmaco'em p'dcas h'ere non p'misit p' eo qd p'dce Priorissa & sorores sunt obedienciarie Priori hospitalis S'ci Joh'is Jerl'm in Angl' ac qd ip'e p'sone capaces p'ut p'dcus Custos sup' ip'as imponit non existunt. Vnde nob' supplicarunt sibi p' nos de gr'a & remedio in hac parte p'uideri. Nos de gr'a n'ra sp'ali & ad effc'm qd p'dce Priorissa & sorores p' salubri statu n'ro ac carissime Consortis n're Johanne dum vix'im' & p' a'iabz n'ris cum ab hac luce mig^a^u'im' necnon p' a'ia carissime Consortis n're Marie defuncte deuocius exorent & qd om'imoda ambiguitas & dubia h'ui' v'bor' de spinis alno & arabl' in concessione p'dca specificator' amoueant^r^ concessim' p' nob' & heredibz

n'ris quantum in nob' est Walt'o Grendon Priori d'ci hospitalis S'ci Joh'is Jerl'm in Angl' & successoribz suis imp'p'm qd ip'e & successores sui p' se & s'uientes suos d'ci hospitalis de Bucland h'eant & p'cipiant qual't septimana tres carectatas subbosci infra boscum n'rm p'd'cm siue Parcum de Pederton videl't thorn aller mapel & hasell ad vsum & p'ficuu' p'dcar' Priorisse & soror' & successor' suar' imp'p'm et q'd quel't carectata subbosci p'dci de tractu sex equor' existat q'dqz p'fatus Prior & successores sui p'dci vel s'uientes sui p'dci h'eant & p'cipiant p'dcas tres carectatas subbosci vt p'dcm est imp'p'm & qd ip'i p'sternant succidant & carient ad voluntatem suam subboscum p'dcm p' focali p'dcar' Priorisse & soror' & successor' suar' quol't anno a festo Anunciaco'is b'e Marie vsqz festum o'im scor' ad num'u' carectar' que eis aut successoribz suis p' totu' annu' p'tinebunt absqz p't'baco'e impedimento seu g^{a}uamine n'ri vel heredum n'ror' aut Custodis n'ri d'ci bosci n'ri vel parci seu alt'ius Officiarij siue Ministri n'ri vel heredum n'ror' quor'cumqz. In cuius &c. T. R. apud West'm xiiij die Nouemb'i. p' br'e de priuato sig'.

No. XXI.

[MS. Lansd. 200, ff. lxxxiiij, lxxxiiij b.]

Assemblia tent' in domo de Clerkenwel xx die Januarij, 1500 P'ntib' ib'm p'sonal'r R^{do} d. p'ore ffr' Jo. Kendal. ff. H. Hawley. ff. B. Pek. ff. Ro. Dauson. T. Newport. ff. Ro. Danyel. ff. A. Chetwod. ff. Jo. Tonge. ff. Jo. Bowth. & ffr. Will'o Darel P'ceptrib'—

Om'ib' X'pi fidelibus ad quos p'sens scriptum Indentatum peruen'it ffrater Joh'es Kendall Prior Hospit'lis Sancti Joh'is Jrl'm in Anglia Et eiusdem P'oris Conf'res Salt'm in d'no sempit'na'. Sciatis nos p'fatos Priorem & conf'res vna'mi nostris assensu et consensu tradidisse et ad firma' dimisisse Joh'i Vernay de ffarefelde in Com' Som's' armigero preceptoria' n'ram de Buclande Prioris in dicto Com' cu' manerijs de Bodmescomb et Cove in Com' Deuon' eidem p'ceptorie p'tinentib' et cu' om'ib' et sing'lis alijs dominijs t'ris et ten'tis pratis pascuis et pasturis redditib' et s'uicijs conf'rijs in Com' Som's' & Deuon' curijs cu' ear' p'ficujs decimis oblaco'ib' bonis et catallis felonu' et fugitiuor' et cu' om'ib' alijs libertatib' emolimentis et com'oditatib' quibuscu'q' ad d'cam p'ceptoria' qualit'cumq' spectantib'

et p'tinentib' Boscis & subboscis aduocac'onib' Eccl'iar' wardis maritagijs & Releuijs duntaxat exceptis Ac nobis p'fato Priori et succ' n'ris om'ino res'uat' Habend' & tenend' predicta' p'ceptoria' cu' om'ib' suis p'tinen' p'dict' except' p'except' p'fato Joh'i Vernay et assignatis suis a festo Natiuitatis Sc'i Joh'is Bap^{te} prox' futur' post data' p'sens' vsq' ad fine' et term' Triginta annor' extu'c p'x' sequenc' et plenarie complendor' Reddendo inde an^{tim} nobis p'fato P'ori et succ' n'ris apud thesauria' n'ram de Clerkenwell p'pe London Nonaginta et tres libras sex solidos & octo denarios sterlingor' ad festa Purificaco'is b'te Marie Virginis et S'ci Barnabe ap'li equis porc'onib' durante termi'o p'dicto It'm p'dictus ffirmarius et assignati sui sumptib' suis p'prijs tenebu't debita' et honesta' hospitalitatem infra dicta' p'ceptoria' Necno' sumptib' suis inuenient scd'm antiqua' consuetudine' quinq' Capellanos videlic' duos Capellanos de cruce vel alios duos quos nos p'dictus Prior vel succ' n'ri deputabimus infra Eccl'iam de Buclande priorissa vnu' Capellanu' infra capella' p'ceptorie ib'm vnu' Capellanu' apud Bodmescomb' et vnu' Capellanu' apud Durston diuina continuo ib'm celebraturos durante termi'o p'dicto Necnon victu' et camera' pro vno Cap^{o} d'ce priorisse atq' victu' pro seniscallo domus eiusd'm Priorisse et p' famulo suo cu' duob' bigat' feni an^{tim} eod'm termi'o durante Prouiso semp' q' dictus ffirmarius et assignati sui dabunt et soluent an^{ti}' durante dicto termi'o d'no Alexandro Vernay capellano celebranti apud Bodmescomb' camera' cu' focali suo ib'm et octo marcas sterlingor' no'ie stipendij sui et pro victu et vestitu suo sc'dm tenore' carte sub sigillo n'ro com'j eid'm d'no Alexandro facte pro termi'o vite sue. It'm p'dictus firmarius et assignati sui soluent priorisse et Con^{tui} de Bucland p'dict' an^{tim} p' pensione sua consueta xxij^{li} atq' seniscallo curiar' dicte p'ceptorie p'tinenciu' feodu' suu' Necnon om'ia alia on'a ordinaria et extraordinaria dicte preceptorie incumbencia & imponenda p'dictus ffirmarius et assign' sui supportabu't sumptib' suis durante termi'o p'dc'o Responsionib' et alijs subsidijs pro com'j thez^{o} Rhodi impositis et imponendis du'taxat exceptis Reparabunt q' dictus firmarius et assign' sui om'ia domos et edificia muros sepes clausuras et fossatas dicte p'ceptorie p'tinen' durante termi'o predicto eaq' om'ia et sing'la in fine eiusd'm term'i nobis p'fato Priori & succ' n'ris in adeo bono statu quo ea recepit sursum

reddent et liberabunt P'uiso q' si contingat aliqua edificia dicte p'ceptorie ad terra' propt' eor' ruinam cadere infra dc'm term' In tali casu nos p'dictus Prior et succ' n'ri edificia illa nostris su'ptib' de nouo edificabim' illaq' sic de nouo edificata p'dictus ffirmarius & assignati sui eor' sumptib' postmodu' reparabu't et manutenebu't durante termi'o p'dicto It'm dictus firmarius et assign' sui expensas mi'stror' nostri p'dicti Prioris et succ' n'ror' cu' quinq' vel sex equis venienciu' bis p' annu' ad sup'vidend' d'cam p'ceptoria' vel ad tenend' curias ib'm vel ad renouand' rentalia et alias evidencias per tres vel quatuor dies et tot noctes supportare tenea't^r durante termi'o p'dicto Habebunt q' dictus ffirmarius et assign' sui housebote ffyrebote ploughbote cartbote hedgebote harobote et ffoldebote in et de boscis ac subboscis dicte p'ceptorie p'tinentib' p' assignaco'em mi'stror' nostri p'dicti P'oris et succ' nostror' capiend' et in dicta p'ceptoria rac'onabilit' et sine vasto expendend' durante termi'o p'dicto Et bene liceb^t nobis p'dicto Priori et succ' atq' mi'stris n'ris quando nobis placu'it sup'videre dicta' p'ceptoria' nostra' cu' suis p'tinen' Necnon ten'e curias et fac'e rent'lia atq' territoria terrar' et ten'tor' p'dicte preceptorie durante termi'o p'dicto Prouiso q' dictus ffirmarius et assign' sui habebu't et p'cipie't p'ficua d'car' Curiar' eod'm termi'o durante dictus q' ffirmarius et assignati sui liberabu't nobis p'd'co Priori et succ' n'ris in fine d'ci term'j om'es rotulos curiar' et rentalia tam antiqua q^am noua que p'uenient ad manus suas durante termi'o p'dicto Prouiso semp' q' non licebit p'dicto Joh'i Vernay statum quem habet in p'dicta p'ceptoria alicui alteri dimittere sine lice'cia nostri p'dicti P'oris et succ' n'ror' durante termi'o p'dicto Et si contingat dictu' an'uale' redditu' lxxxxiij^li vj^s viij^d sterlingor' a retro fore in parte vel in toto et non solut' post aliquem terminu' soluco'is sup'ius specificatu' per duos menses Tunc bene licebit nobis predicto Priori et succ' n'ris in p'dicta' p'ceptoria' cu' suis jurib' et pertinen' vniu's' reintrare eaq' om'ia et sing'la vt in pristino statu n'ro retin'e p'nti dimissione in aliquo non obstante Prouiso semp' q' cu' p'ficua Confratriar' que sunt parcelle reuencionu' dicte p'ceptorie extimantur ad annuale' valore' lxxxxij^li: Idcirco si contingat &^m dn'm n'r'm papa' modernu' siue success' suos suspend'e dictas Confr'ias aliquo tempore durante termi'o p'ntis indent^re Tunc p'dictus Joh'es Vernay ffirmarius et assign' sui durante illa suspenc'one non erunt onerati cu' dicta integra annuali

firma lxxxxiij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} sed du'taxat erunt computabiles sup' eor' sacramentu' p'dicto Priori et succ' suis de tantis pecunijs quas recipient ex Nuncijs Confr'iar' p'dictar' pro dictis confr'ijs et de illis du'taxat pecunijs facient soluc'onem p'dicto Priori & succ' suis dura'te suspencione p'dicta atq' de residuo pecuniar' carente ex dicta su'ma lxxxxij^{li} pro Confr'ijs idem ffirmarius et assign' sui allocac'onem habebu't in p'dicta eor' annuali firma Nonaginta et triu' librar' sex solidor' et octo cenarior' durante suspenco'e p'dicta ET AD OM'ES et sing'las conuenco'es p'dictas ex parte p'dicti Joh'is Vernay ffirmarij et assign' suor' cu' eff'tu p'implendas idem Joh'es Vernay obligat se heredes et executores suos p'dicto Priori & succ' suis In ducentis libris sterlingor' p' p'sentes IN CUIUS Rei testi'om tam Sigillu' n'r'm co'e q'm Sigillu' p'dicti Joh'is Vernay p'ntib' Indenturis alt'nati' sunt appensa DAT' in domo n'ra de Clerkenwell prope London in Assemblia n'ra tent' ib'm vicesimo die Januarij a^{o} d'ni Mill'mo Quingentesimo PROUISO semp' q' dictus ffirmarius et assign' sui in ffine p'dicti term'i dimittent et liberabu't Preceptori de Buclande p'dict' p' tempore existen' om'ia orname'ta capelle ib'm sim'l cu' to^{o} Stauro viuo & mortuo specificato In dorso p'nt' Indenture Dat' ut sup^{a}.

No. XXII.

[Miscell. Books, Off. Aug., vol. 245, fol. 128.]

BUKELOND.—Here ffoloweth the yerely penc'ons or anuyties grauntyd by the King*es* highnes to the late P^{i}ores and Nunes of the late surrendryd howse of Buckelonde in the countie of som'sett, And they and eu'y of them to haue there halfe yeres penc'on at th'anu'cac'on of o^{r} ladye next cumyng whiche shalbe in the yere of o^{r} lorde god a thowsande fyve hundreth xxxix^{ti}, and soo from halfe yere to halfe yere during there lyves and the lyfe of eu'y of them.

That is to say

Ffurst to Katheryn Bowser p^{i}oresse for her yerely penc'on	} l^{li}
To Margaret Sydnam suppi^{i}ores	iiij^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
To Julyan Kendall	iiij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}
To Jone Hyll	iiij^{li}

To Anne Plumm' .. .. iiij^{li}
To Tomyſyn Huntyngton .. iiij^{li}
To Katheryn Poph^{a}m .. iiij^{li}
To Anne Maunſell .. .. iiij^{li}
To Mary Dodyngton .. .. iiij^{li}
To Ales Emerforde .. .. iiij^{li}
To Jane Babyngton .. .. iiij^{li}
To Mary Mathew .. .. iiij^{li}
To Agnes Mathew .. .. iiij^{li}
To Iſabell Grene .. .. iiij^{li}
To f^{r} Will^{a}m Mawdeſley co'feſſor and p'feſſyd in there order } iiij^{li}

Sm^{a} of the yerely penſions cvij^{li}

Jo. Tregonwell.
William Petre.

[Miscell. Books, vol. 245, fol. 229 b.]

Katherina Bowſer Prioriſſa de Bucklande—l^{li}—xv^{li}

No. XXIII.

[Card. Pole's Pension Book, fol. xxix.]

Buckeland nup' monaſt'iu'

ffeod' { Alex'i Popham capitl' Sen^{li} ib'm p' ſcript' Abb'is et Conven' p' a' } c^{s}

An^{t}
- Sup'd'ci Alex'i Popham p' annu' .. vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
- Joh'nis Tregonwell p' annu' .. iiij^{li}
- Will'i Portema' mil' p' annu' .. xxvj^{s} viij^{d}
- Joh'nis Butler p' annu' xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

Penc'
- Johanne Hille p' annu' iiij^{li}
- Thomaſine Huntingdon p' annu' .. .. iiij^{li}
- Kat'ine Pophame p' annu' iiij^{li}
- Anne Maundefeld p' annu' iiij^{li}
- Johanne Bavington p' annu' iiij^{li}
- Eliſabeth Grene p' annu' iiij^{li}
- Agnet' Mathewe p' annu' iiij^{li}
- Will'i Maudeſley cl'ic' p' annu' .. .. iiij^{li}

No. XXIV.

[Abstract of Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 2, mm. 34 (13)——31 (16).]

P' Comite Essex Jacobo Rokeby Will'o Ibgrabe Joh'e Cokke Edwardo Rogers & Edwardo Bury sibi & hered'.

Rex om'ibz ad quos &c. salt'm. Sciatis q'd nos p' su'm'a mille quadraginta nouem librar' vndecim solidor' duor' denarior' & vnius oboli legalis monete Angl' ad manus &c. ——— p' p'dil'c'm & fidelem Consanguineu' & Consiliariu' n'rm Will'm Comitem Essex ac p'dil'cos nob' Jacobum Rokeby armig'um Will'm Ibgrabe armig'um Joh'em Cokke Edwardum Rogers et Edwardum Bury armig'os ——— dedim' &c. totam domu' & Scitum nup' Monast'ij de Buckland in Com' n'ro Som's' modo dissolut' ac om'ia t'ras prata pasturas & hereditamenta n'ra vocat' seu cognit' p' nomen vel p' no'i'a de fouretene acres Newland Purches Stapleheyes Riden Lobbis Harys Horlocke meade Hurte meade longe meade & sixe acres meade seu quocumq' alio no'i'e aut quibuscumqz aliis no'ibz sciantr censeantr vel cognoscantr cum om'ibz eor' p'tin' modo vel nup' in tenura siue occupaco'e d'ci Edwardi Rogers vel assign' suor' iacen' & existen' in Buclande alias dict' Buckland Soror' in d'co Com' Som's' d'co nup' Monast'io de Buckland dudum spectan' vel p'tinen' ac parcell' possessionu' inde existen' in manibz cultura & occupaco'e p'pria nup' Priorisse illius nup' Monast'ij de Buckland tempore dissoluc' eiusdem nup' Monast'ij reseruat' existen' Ac om'es illos boscos n'ros & t'ras n'ras vocat' Riden coppes & Wynsell Wood continen' p' estimaco'em decem acras cum eor' p'tin' vniu'sis in Buckland nup' Monast'io de Buckland dudum spectan' & pertinen' &c. ——— Necnon om'ia domos edificia horrea stabula columbaria ortus pomaria gardina t'ram & solum n'ra quecumqz infra Scitum septum ambitum circuitum & p'cinctum d'ci nup' Monast'ij de Buckland existen' Ac om'ia & singula co'ias vias semitas easiamenta co'moditates p'ficua & emolumenta quecumqz in Buckland Mighelchurche & Northpetherton p'd'ca d'cis t'ris pratis & pasturis in Buckland & Mighelchurche p'dict' quoquo modo spectan' vel p'tinen' & cum eisdem vsitat' seu occupat' existen' Aceciam totam illam Rectoriam n'ram & eccl'iam n'ram siue Capellam n'ram de Mighelchurche cum p'tin' in d'co Com' n'ro Som's'

d'co nup' Monast'io de Buckland dudum spectan' & p'tinen' Necnon om'es & om'imod' decimas blador' garbar' granor' feni lane & agnellor' ac alias decimas minutas ac oblaco'es obuenco'es & p'ficua quecumqz in Mighelchurche & Buckland p'dict' & alibi vbicumqz d'ce Rectorie et eccl'ie siue Capelle de Mighelchurche quoquo modo spectan' vel p'tinen' ——— Et que quidem Scitus d'ci nup' Monast'ij de Buckland ac p'dict' terr' prata pascue pasture decime ac cet'a p'missa in Buckland Northpetherton & Michelchurche p'd'cis modo extenduntr ad clar' annuu' valorem septuaginta quinqz solidor' & octo denarior' ——— H'end' &c. in capite p' s'uiciu' vicesime partis vnius feodi militis Ac reddend' annuatim &c. ——— pro p'd'cis t'ris ten' pratis pascuis pasturis Rectoria decimis & cet'is p'missis in Buckland & Mighelchurche p'd'ca septem solidos & septem denarios sterlingor' ——— ad festum S'ci Mich'is Arch'i singulis annis soluend' ——— Ac p't'q^{a}m de Centum sex solidis & octo denarijs annuatim soluend' p' stipendio Curat' diuina celebran' in eccl'ia siue Capella de Mighelchurche p'dict' ——— In cuius &c. T. R. apud Westm' xxx die Junij.

No. XXV.

[Abstract of Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 8, mm. 29 (23)——26 (26).]

P' Will'o Porteman & al' de con' sibi & hered'.

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm Sciatis q'd nos p' su'ma septingentar' quinquaginta quatuor librar' septendecim solidor' & octo denarior' bone & legalis monete n're Anglie ——— p' Will'm Porteman s'uientem n'r'm ad legem & Alexandrum Poph^{a}m armig'm p' manib' bene & fidelit' solut' de quaquidem sum'a septingentar' &c. ———dedim' &c. totum illud maniu' n'r'm de Northpetherton al' Northpederton in Com' n'ro Som's' cum om'ibz & singulis suis iuribz membr' & p'tin' uniu'sis nup' Prioratui de Buckland in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' modo dissolut' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' ac parcell' possessionu' reuencionu' seu p'ficuor' inde existen' Ac totum Situm eiusdem man'ij ac om'ia t'ras d'nicales prata pascua & pastur' cum suis p'tin' eidem man'io p'tinen' seu spectan' Acetiam totum illum boscum n'r'm vulgarit' vocat' Barwoode iacen' & existen' in Northpetherton alias Northpederton

p'd'ca continen' p' estimac'oem octo acras t're & bosci cum p'tin' necnon om'ia illa mesuagia t'ras & ten' prata pascua & pastur' n'ra cum suis p'tin' iacen' & existen' in Gotton infra parochiam de Westemonketon in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'co nup' prioratui Buckeland dudum spectan' & pertinen' —— in separalibz tenuris siue occupaco'ibz Ric'i Warr' Armig' Rob'ti Warr' Will'i Hare & Weltheane Merkes vidue —— Necnon om'ia mesuagia tofta domos edificia orrea stabula columbaria molendina ortos pom'ia gardina t'ras ten' prata &c —— boscos subboscos — aquas stagna viuaria gurgites piscaco'es, co'ias, vasta &c—feod'militum &c.—in Northpetherton alias Northpederton Michelchurche Bromefelde Brympton Raiff Wollauington & Mirelynche ac in Gotton in d'ca parochia de Westemonceketon — aut alib' vbicumqz in eodem Com' n'ro Som's —— mesuag' &c —— in Ayshe & Thornfaveon in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' —— vnu' ten' & mesuagiu' n'r'm cum suis p'tin' iacen' & existen' in parochia de Bromefeld in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' nup' prioratui de Taunton in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' modo dissolut' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' &c modo in tenura dimissione seu occupaco'e cuiusdam Ric'i Raynald —— Acetiam aliud mesuagiu' in Bromefeld modo in tenura &c cuiusdam Joh'is Pylman ——— Necnon terr' in Kyngeshyll in parochia de Spaxton in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'co nup' prioratui de Tawnton dudum spectan' &c ——— Insup' totum illud man'iu' firmam & grang' n'ra' de Claveshey cum p'tin' in parochijs de Northepetherton & Bromfeld p'd'cis Necnon totum illud Capitale mesuagiu' domu' situm & Capitalem mancionem man'ij firme & Grangie n'ror' de Claveshey p'd'ca modo siue nup' in tenura siue dimissione d'ci Will'i Portman vel assign' suor, nup' Monast'io de Athelney in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' modo dissolut' dudum spectan' & pertinen' Necnon boscum n'r'm vulgarit' vocat' Chalveshey Wood continen' p' estimaco'em decem acras t're & bosci ac boscum n'r'm vocat' Holesey Wood continen' p' estimaco'em quinqz acras t're & bosci iacen' & existen' in Northepetherton p'd'ca cum p'tin' d'co nup' Monast'io de Athelney p'tinen' & spectan' —— Necnon om'ia & singula domos &c d'co man'io firme & grangie aliquo modo spectan' &c. Quequidem man'iu' de Northepetherton & mesuagia, &c. in Northepetherton Michelchurch Bromefeld Brympton Raiff Wollauington Mirelinchie & Gotton d'co nup' Prioratui de Buckland dudum spectan' &

p'tinen' sunt clari annui valoris viginti triu' librar' septemdecim solidor' & quatuor denarior' ——— Ac quequidem &c. in Ayshe & Thornefavcon sunt clari annui valoris quadraginta septem solidor' & sex denar' ——— Et quequidem in Bromefeld & Spaxton —— quadraginta vnius solidor' & octo denarior' ——— Et quequidem man'iu' &c. de Claveshey —— nouem librar' ——— H'end' &c. de nob' &c. in capite p' s'uiciu' militare videl't p' s'uiciu' tricesime partis vnius feodi militis Ac reddend' annuatim —— p' Northepetherton &c. triginta octo solidos —— p' Gotton nouem solidos vnu' denariu' & vnu' obulum —— p' Ayshe & Thornfavcon quatuor & nouem denarios —— p' Bromefeld & Spaxton quatuor solidos & duos denarios —— p' Claveshey octodecim solidos —— ad festum S'ci Mich'is singulis annis soluend' —— In cujus rei &c. T. R. apud Westm' xiij die Octobr'.

No. XXVI.

[Abstract of Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 26, mm. 44 (6), 43 (7), 42 (8.)]

De con' p' Alex'o Popham armig'o & Will'o Halley sibi & hered'

Rex om'ibus ad quos &c salt'm. Sciatis q'd nos p' su'ma nonnigentar' nonaginta nouem librar' sexdecim solidor' & septem denarior' legalis monete Angl' &c. p' Alex'm Popham armig'um & Will'm Halley gen'osum ——— dedim' &c. totum illud man'iu' & totam illam nup' Preceptoriam n'ram de Buckelond Priours in Com' n'ro Som's' cum man'io de Halse ac om'ibz alijs man'ijs t'ris ten'tis pratis pascuis pasturis reddıtibz reu'sionibz s'uicijs & cet'is hereditamentis quibuscumqz iacen' & existen' in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'ce nup' P'ceptorie de Buckelond Priours p'tinen' cum om'ibz alijs suis iuribz membris & p'tinen' vniu'sis ——— modo vel nup' in tenura dimissione siue occupacio'e p'fati Will'i Halley vel assign' suor' Necnon Rectoriam & eccl'iam imp'priatam de Halse ac om'es & singulas alias Rectorias & eccl'ias imp'priat' n'ras d'ce Preceptorie p'tinen' ac om'es glebas decimas penco'es porco'es oblaco'es obuenco'es fructus co'moditates p'ficua emolumenta & hereditamenta n'ra quecumqz tam spiritualia q^{a}m temporalia cuiuscumqz sint gen'is ——— necnon aduocaco'es & iura pr'onat' Rectoriar' & Eccl'iar' p'dict'. Acetiam om'ia illa duo man'ia n'ra de Bod-

mescombe & Cove in Com' n'ro Deuon' cum om'ibz &c. ——— Necnon aduocaco'es donaco'es p'sentaco'es &c. eccl'ie & Rectorie de Hethefelde & eccl'ie & R'torie de Halse ——— Necnon totum illum boscum & grouam n'ram vocat' Wynsell Grove continen' p' estimaco'em quatuor acras t're & bosci ac totum illum boscum & grouam n'ram vocat' Perifeld Grove continen' p' estimaco'em quatuor acras t're & bosci ac totam illam grouam n'ram vocat' Bowyeres Grove continen' p' estimaco'em duodecim acras bosci & vasti ac totum illum boscum & vastum n'r'm vocat' Bodmescombe Wood continen' p' estimaco'em triginta quinqz acras bosci & vasti necnon duodecim acras t're ac sexdecim acras t're & viginti septem acras t're vocat' Vprynges of Wood —— parcell' d'ce nup' Preceptorie de Buckelond Priours p'dict'——Insuper dominiu' & man'iu' de Thurlebare &c. nup' Prioratui de Taunton spectan' &c. ——— Ac mesuagiu' &c. vocat' Playstrete &c. infra p'ochiam de Staple ac nup' Prioratui de Taunton &c. Ac redditum viginti quatuor solidor' nouem denarior' & vnius obuli vocat' le Thurchettz exeun' de quibusdam t'ris &c. in Thurlebare ——— necnon vnu' clausum t're continen' p' estimaco'em vnam acram iacen' apud Thurleaysshe et vnu' clausu' t're iacens subtus le Wood ibidem continen' p' estimaco'em septem acras t're et vnu' clausum bosci vocat' le Priours Wood continen' tresdecim acras bosci & t're ——Westhatche—Vppeatche——Necnon totum maneriu' & dominiu' n'r'm de Tobrydge cum om'ibz suis iuribz &c. in p'ochia S'ci Jacobi iuxta Taunton Prioratui de Taunton spectan' &c.——Que quid'm man'iu & nup' Preceptoria de Buckeland Priours vna cum d'co man'io de Halse ac om'ibz alijs man'ijs Rectorijs &c. sunt de claro annuo valore triginti vnius librar' nouemdecim solidor' & duor' denarior' decima inde nob' p' p'sentes reseruat' non deduct' Et que quidem vicaria de Halsey p'd'ca est de claro annuo valore quinqz librar' nouemdecim solidor' quinqz denarior' & vnius obuli decima inde nob' res'uat' non deduct'. Et que quidem Rectoria de Hethefelde &c. nouem librar & vndecim denarior' decima inde &c. reseruat' non deduct' ——tenend' P'ceptoriam de Buckelond Pryours ac man'iu' de Halse in capite p' s'uiciu' militare videl't p' vicesimam partem vnius feodi militis, Ac reddend' &c. p' Buckelond & Halse tres libras tres solidos & vndecim denarios bone & legalis monete n're Angl' —— p' Tobrydge decem solidos

& septem denarios —— p' Thurlebare quatuordecim solidos & quinqz denarios —— ad festum S'ci Mich'is Arch'i sing'lis annis soluend' —— In cuius rei &c. T. R. apud Westm' xvj die ffebruarij Anno regni sui tricesimo sexto.

No. XXVII.

[Abstract of Pat. 2 Edw. VI., p. 1, m. (11) 35.]

Licenc' alienand' p' Joh'e Cuffe & Joh'e Tynbery & Will'o Halley

Rex Om'ibz ad quos &c. salt'm Sciatis &c. p' sex libris tresdecim solidis & quatuor denarijs &c.—— concessim' dil'co nob' Will'o Halley gen'oso q'd ip'e unu' capitale mesuagiu' suu' vocat' Buckelond Priors cum p'tin' ac duo gardina duo pomaria ducentas acras t're triginta sex acras p^{a}ti sexaginta tresdecim acras pasture & duas acras t're aque coop'tas cum p'tin' in Buckland Priors & Coglod in Com' Som's' que de nob' tenent^{r} in capite ut dicit^{r} dare possit & concedere alienare confirmare aut cognosc'e p' finem in Cur' n'ra &c. dil'cis nob' Joh'i Cuffe & Joh'i Tynbery h'end' & tenend' sibi & hered' suis &c. Et eisdem Joh'i & Joh'i q'd ip'i Capitale Mesuagiu' p'd'cm &c. de p'fato Will'o recip'e possint & tenere &c. similit' licenciam dedim' ac dam' sp'alem Et vlt'ius concessim' &c. p'fatis Joh'i & Joh'i q'd ip'i capitale Mesuagiu' p'd'cm ac om'ia & singula p'missa cum p'tin' dare concedere & recognosc'e possint p'fato Will'o & Margarete vx'i eius h'end' & tenend' eisdem Will'o & Margareta ac hered' &c. licenciam dedim' & dam' sp'alem ——— In cujus &c. T. R. apud West'm t'cio decimo die ffebruarij.

ADDITIONS.

Page 6.—About the year 1143, King Stephen gave to God and the Church of S. Andrew of Wells, the Churches of Northcuri and Pereton for perpetual prebends. (Reg. Well. I. f. xj. Reg. III. f. ij.) Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Legate of the Apostolic See, confirmed the gift. (Reg. Well. I. n. xiv. Reg. III. f. xxvj.) The grant from some unexplained cause did not take effect, and the Church of North Petherton was bestowed as related in the page above referred to.

Page 33.—Robert de Derneford, vicar of Northperton, had letters of protection, dated, witness the King, at Odyham, 22nd Feb. 25 Edward I., 1296-7. (Pat. 25 Edw. I. m. 13 dors.) These letters were addressed to all the King's officers, imperatively commanding them to maintain, protect, and defend the men, lands, and possessions in general of the party in whose behalf they were granted.

Page 39.—Henry Canny, clerk, of Northpederton, presented to Bishop John de Drokenesford a bull from Pope Clement V., dated at Avignon, the 4th of April, in the 4th year of his pontificate, for dispensation "super defectum natalium." The Bishop's letters were granted, dated at Grenewych, by London, xv Kal. Apr., the 18th of March, 1308-9. (Reg. Drok. f. xxx.)

Page 40.—In 1316, Bishop John de Drokenesford granted to John de Reigni licence to have Divine Service at his Chapel at Rod, in the parish of Northpederton, on

account of the inundations and dangerous state of the roads, to be performed by a fit Chaplain who should be maintained at the expence of the said John, provided that nothing should be done thereby to the injury of the mother Church of Northpederton. (Reg. Drok. f. lxxxxv.) The same year another licence was granted to Richard de Wild, for a Chantry at Donwer. (Reg. Drok. f. lxxxxvij.)

Page 58.—Was Robert the Preceptor of Buckland, in 1346? A Preceptor of that name, locum tenens of Prior Philip de Thame, presented John de Sutton to the Church of Elworthy, on the 30th of May in that year. (Reg. Rad. f. cccix b.)

Page 68.—Was Robert Normanton the Preceptor of Buckland, in 1402? He presented, as locum tenens of the Prior, William Pateryk to the vicarage of Kilmersdon, on the 18th of February in that year. (Reg. Bowet, f. xij.)

Page 71.—In the year 1409, Bishop Bubwith sent letters to King Henry V., for the capture of John Colyford, vicar of Northpederton, excommunicated. (Reg. Bubw. fol. xxvj.)

Page 73.—Henry Crouchale, Crounhale, or Cromhale, was Preceptor of Buckland in 1420, 1421, and 1422. As locum tenens of Prior William Hulles, he presented John Grobham to the vicarage of Toller, 18th Nov. 1420; (Reg. Chandler, Sar. Ep.) John Wootton to North Petherton, 22nd March, 1420-1; (Reg. Bubw. f. clxxix.) William Hampsted to North Petherton, 31st May, 1421; (Reg. Bubw. f. clxxxiij.) and David Williams to Halse, 1st September, 1422. (Reg. Bubw. f. clxxxxiiij.)

Page 74.—In 1426, the Church of Pederton was valued at xxv^{li}; the vicarage of Kilmersdon at vj^{li}; and the Church of Tolland at lx^{s}. (Reg. Staff. ff. viij, ix.)

In 1445, the vicarage of Pederton was valued at x marcs and a half; the vicarage of Kilmersdon at vj marcs; the Church of Elworthy at vj marcs and a half; the vicarage of Halse at x marcs; and the Church of Hethfeld at vij marcs and a half. (Reg. Bek. ff. xxviij, xxix.)

Page 78.—The cause of the young Richard, ordinarily styled an impostor, but more likely the veritable son of Edward IV., was warmly espoused in the western counties of England. After his overthrow in 1498, a commission was sent into those parts of the kingdom, and a record of some of its proceedings is furnished by an original Roll, still preserved among the Royal MSS. in the British Museum, containing a list of so-called rebels in Somerset, Dorset, Wilts, and Hampshire, with the amount of the fines paid by each for the King's pardon of their alleged treason. The fines were taken before Robert Shirborn, Dean of S. Paul's, London, Sir Thomas Darcy, Knt., and William Hatteclyff, Esq., and are said to be for the crime of favouring the cause of a certain rebel Michael Joseph, his adherent James, late Lord Audeley, "et cuidam idolo sive simulacro" Peter Warbec, a native of Flanders. The lists of names and fines in each hundred are signed by the three commissioners, and it would appear that Taunton, Bridgwater, and the neighbourhood were the chief of the disaffected districts. At the head of the names are placed by themselves those of five of superior rank,—John, Abbot of S. Saviour's, Otheney, (Athelney), fined C marcs; Henry, Abbot of S. Mary, Clyff, (Cleeve), fined xl^{li}; William, Abbot of S. Mary, Fforde, fined lx^{li}; William, Abbot of SS. Peter, and Paul, and Andrew, Muchelney, fined lx^{li}; and Sir John Speke, of Whitlakynton, Knt., fined CC^{li}. Then, heading

the ordinary lists, comes the "Burgus de Taunton," with fifty-one names. The most noticeable are those of William Nitheway, (in whom, or in one of his kinsmen, doubtless, we have the founder of the Nethewayes Chapel mentioned at page 201), fined xx^{li}; Richard Best, fined iiij^{xxli}; John Tose, fined C^{li}; Alexander Neuton, fined xl^{li}; and Dame Anne Burton, "vovens castitatem," fined xl^{li}. Some of the fines are as low as xx shillings; and the whole amount from Taunton, not including the Hundred of Holwey, is the sum of CCCCxlj^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}. The names of very few of the clergy appear among the fined, although the mean-spirited occupant of the throne was most deservedly unpopular throughout the country, and most of these singularly enough are connected with the parishes whose annals are presented in this volume. They include Richard Gardener, vicar of Hals, fined xl^{s}; Master Harowe, vicar of Northpedyrton, fined xx marcs; and John Cutler, vicar of Poulett, fined xx marcs. In the lists for the various tithings in the Hundred of Northpedyrton, the family names of Bulpan, Harres, Mustard, Andersey, Dybbell, and others occuring in these pages are general. The Roll is endorsed with the characteristic notice in the King's hand:—"ffynes off the conties of Som'f'. Dors. Wilt'. & H^{a}mpſhwr. Wherof William Hatteclyff is Receyuo^{r}. and muſt anſwere the mony." (Rot. Reg, 14. B. vij.)

Pages 102—105.—The following names etc. should be added to the list of Incumbents of the impropriated benefices:—

Incumbents of North Petherton.—The Church was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Add Robert de Derneford, 1297; (Claus. 25 Edw. I., m. 13, dors.) John Wootton,

22nd March, 1420-1; presented by Henry Cromhale, the Prior's locum tenens. (Reg. Bubw. f. clxxix.) William Hampsted, 31st May, 1421; presented by the same. (Reg. Bubw. f. clxxxiij.) John Pederton, ——; Robert Norys, 20th Feb. 1444-5; presented by Prior Robert Botell. (Reg. Bek. f. xx.) John Mustard, 2nd Sept., 1473; presented by Prior William Turnay; (Reg. Still. f. xlj.) John Harrow, 17th Oct., 1476; presented by Prior John Weston. (Reg. Still. f. civ.)

To William Parkhowse add (Reg. Clerke, f. v.) and to John Bulcombe (Reg. Clerke, f. xliij.).

Incumbents of Kilmersdon.—Dedicated to S. Peter and S. Paul. Add Edmund Gamage, 19th Jan., 1405-6; (Reg. Bowet, f. xxxvij.) Robert Bochard, 22nd Aug., 1411; (Reg. Bubw. f. lij.) John Drewry, 16th Mar., 1429-30; (Reg. Staff. f. lij.), presented by Prior Walter Grendon. William Chapman, 22nd Mar., 1431-2; (Reg. Staff. f. lxxv.) John Page, 12th Jan., 1432-3; (Reg. Staff. lxxxiiij.) Thomas Chykke, 13th Oct., 1435; (Reg. Staff. f. cxviij.) presented by Prior Robert Malorre. Richard Bigs, 24th July, 1465; (Reg. vac. Bek. f. ix.) Thomas Draper, 7th Sept., 1465; (Reg. vac. Bek. f. xij.) presented by Prior Robert Botyl. John Shopper, 29th Sept., 1474; (Reg. Still. f. xlvij.) presented by Prior Robert Melton. John Merwode, 13th Oct., 1498; (Reg. King, f. xxvij.) presented by Prior John Kendall. Robert Symond, 31st Aug., 1502; (Reg. King, f. xcvj.) presented by Prior Thomas Docwra.

Add to Thomas Bourgchier (Reg. Wulcy, f. xv.); to James Harwode (Reg. Clerke, f. ix.); and to John Thomason (Reg. Clerke, f. lv.).

Incumbents of Elworthy.—Dedicated to S. Martin. Add

Roger Nichol, ——; William David, 13th Feb., 1410-11; (Reg. Bubw. f. xlviij.) Walter Roche, 21st Feb., 1451-2; (Reg. Bek. f. cxxxviij.) John Trevenant, 22nd Dec., 1453; (Reg. Bek. f. clxxiij.) presented by Prior Robert Botyl. Stephen Chapman, 15th Mar., 1455-6; (Reg. Bek. f. cciiij.) John Forster, 22nd Aug., 1467; (Reg. Still. f. xj.) presented by Prior John Botyl. Andrew Batte, 23rd Aug., 1476; (Reg. Still. f. liij.) presented by Prior Robert Multon. John Poole, 28th June, 1487; (Reg. Still. f. cxlv.) presented by Prior John Weston.

Add to Ralph de Hokyngton (Reg. Drok. f. ccxiiij.); to Edmund Sterne (Reg. Hadr. f. xxxj.); and to Robert Bailly (Reg. Hadr. f. lxj.).

Incumbents of Halse.—Add David Williams, 1st Sept., 1422; (Reg. Bubw. f. clxxxxiiij.) presented by Henry Crounhale, Preceptor of Boklond, locum tenens of Prior William Hulles. John Smyth, 9th Mar., 1439-40; (Reg. Staff. f. clxiiij.) presented by Prior Robert Malorre. Robert Philbert, 21st Oct., 1456; (Reg. Bek. f. ccviij.) Hugh Grobham, 23rd Dec., 1457; (Reg. Bek. f. ccxx.) Thomas Watch, 13th Jan., 1463-4; (Reg. Bek. f. cclxxxxix.) presented by Prior Robert Botyl. Richard Philipp, 20th Oct., 1479; (Reg. Still. f. lxxj.) presented by Prior John Weston. Richard Gardener (?), 1498.

Add to Thomas Hyll (Reg. Hadr. f. xxiij.).

Incumbents of Heathfield.—Add to John Lyng (Reg. Staff. f. clxxviij.); to Robert Collys, 1501-2; and to Thomas Banys (Reg. vac. King, f. v.) He paid for his institution, through Mr. John Bekham, the sum of vj^{s} viij^{d}. (Reg. Warham, f. ccij b.)

Incumbents of Tolland.—Add William Padslo, 16th May, 1428; (Reg. Staff. f. xlj.) Roger How, 2nd Feb., 1436-7;

(Reg. Staff. cxxx.) presented by Prior Robert Malorre. Adam Raw, 8th Aug., 1439; (Reg. Staff. f. clviij.) Thomas Bruton, 26th April, 1459; (Reg. Bek. f. ccxxxvij.) presented by Prior Robert Botyl. Walter Crosse, 2nd April, 1480; (Reg. Still. f. lxxij.) presented by Prior John Weston.

Add to John Crosse (Reg. Hadr. f. cxxxv.).

The following are some of the Incumbents of Toller, as noticed by Hutchins in the Sarum Registers :—Thomas de Crekedale, 7 Id Nov., 1312; (Reg. Gaunt.) William de Quenington, Cal. May, 1312 ; (Reg. Gaunt.) presented by Prior William Totehall. John de Lodington, 25th Jan., 1351 ; (Reg. Wyvil.) presented by Prior Philip Thame. John Hooper, 7th April, 1362; (Reg Wyvil.) John Hamond, 17th April, 1389; (Reg. Waltham.) John Grobham, 18th Nov., 1420; (Reg. Chandler.) presented by Henry Crouchale. (See page 110.) Richard Catwel, 20th Nov., 1422; (Reg. Chandler.) John Lovedrem, 10th Mar., 1425; (Reg. Chandler.) Thomas Pounde, 12th Aug., 1431; (Reg. Nevile.) William Symonds, ——. William Woky, 3rd July, 1443; (Reg. Aiscot.) John Gent, 1st April, 1450; (Reg. Aiscot.) Robert Spyryng, 27th April, 1473; (Reg. Beauchamp.) John Papylwig, 16th May, 1503 ; (Reg. Audeley.) John Grenway, alias Lastard, 24th Aug., 1516 ; (Reg. Audeley.) presented by Prior Thomas Docwra. Roger Bond, 1558.

To these I can add another still more ancient in the person of Henry de Colingburn, 1297. (Claus. 25 Edw. I. m. 22 dors.)

In 1312 the vicarage was valued at £9 13s. 3d. (Hutchins, History of Dorsetshire, II. 267.)

Page 183.—The distant benefices impropriated to the Priory are thus returned in the "Valor" of 1535 :—

TOLLER FRATRUM VICARAGE.

John Chenewey, Vicar there.

In glebe lands, per annum	nothing
In all kinds of tithes, per annum	vj^{li} x^{s}
In oblations and other perquisites	liij^{s} iiij^{d}
In a certain pension by the Abbess *(sic)* of the Monastery of Mynchyn Bucklond, proprietress of the parsonage, to the Vicar and his successors, yearly and for ever,	xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}
From whence :—	
To the Archdeacon of Dorset, for sinodals and procurations, yearly and for ever	x^{s} ix^{d} q'.
And there remains ..	x^{li} v^{s} x^{d} ob'. q'.
Thence for the tenth ..	xx^{s} vij^{d} q'.*

DONYNGTON.

John Gybson, Vicar there.

Value in site of vicarage, with oblations, tithe of milk, tithe of hemp, flax, onions, garlic, and other things, in common years	xiiij^{li} xij^{s} viij^{d}
Reprises.	
Sinodals and procurations to the Archdeacon of Lincoln, paid yearly .. .. .. ix^{s}	xv^{s} v^{d}
Rent resolute to Sir Thomas Tempest, Knt. .. .. .. vj^{s} iiij^{d}	
To Lord Beamonde .. .. j^{d}	

* Val. Eccl. I. 246.

Clear value	xiij^{li} xvij^{s} iij^{d}
Thence for the tenth	xxvij^{s} viij^{d} ob'. q'.*

KYRTON.

John Brewyster, Vicar there.

Value in site of vicarage, in tithe of cows, hemp, flax, hay, in oblations, with pension from the Prior (*sic*) of Buclond, yearly received	xxiiij^{li} v^{s} vij^{d}

Reprises.

In a certain pension paid yearly to the Society of Vicars Choral at Lincoln .. .. .. liij^{s} iiij^{d}	liiij^{s} x^{d}
In sinodals and procurations paid yearly xviij^{d}	
Clear value	xx j^{li} x^{s} ix^{d}
Thence for the tenth	xliij^{s} j^{d}†

* Val. Eccl. IV. 89. † Val. Eccl. Ib.

Canyngton Priory.

A LITTLE more than three miles from Bridgwater, on the road from that town through Nether Stowey and Williton to Dunster and Porlock, stands the pleasant village of Canyngton. One first gets a glimpse of the tall and stately tower of its parish Church on surmounting the hill at Wembdon, from whence the eye embraces a wide expanse of cultivated valley, backed by the lofty mass of mountain lime-stone known by the name of Canyngton Park, and bounded on the right by the flat banks of the Parret, and on the left by the green glades of Brymore. As he approaches the village, the traveller finds that the description of Leland, who journeyed over the same road three centuries ago, is still applicable in the main to the scene before him. Canyngton is yet "a praty uplandisch" place; and our modern wayfarer as he enters it "passes,"

as did his predecessor, "over a bygge Brooke that risith not far of by West yn the Hilles, and passinge by Canyngtun renneth into the Haven of Bridgewater, a 2. miles and more by Estimation lower then Bridgwater."* Although, at present, nothing more than a village, the place has an air of having once been of much greater importance. On approaching the Church the eye is immediately attracted by some venerable enclosures, which surround an area of several acres, and unmistakably suggest the ancient tenure of the spot by some religious community. The Church itself, as it now appears, can hardly be said to merit the praise that Leland bestowed upon it, of being "very fair and welle adornyd."† It is a restored specimen of Somersetshire Perpendicular, despoiled of its most interesting features, and is far surpassed by many of the glorious Churches for which the neighbourhood is widely distinguished.

Adjacent to the north wall of the chancel, which is on that side without windows, was a Priory of Benedictine Nuns. Their Church, according to Leland, was "hard adnexid to the Est of the Paroch Church,"‡ with which, however, so far as can be perceived, it had no connexion. Of the Nuns' abode very little is now to be seen, as the vicissitudes which the spot has witnessed have all but obliterated the evidences of its earlier tenants, and that which is still visible has carefully to be sought for among those manifold alterations by which the successive holders, who cared little or nothing for the ancient possessors of the place, have endeavoured to accommodate it to their several requirements. To the fragments which remain,

* Itin. ij., 98. † Itin. ij., 98.
‡ Itin. ij., 98.

consisting of a part of the basement story, and including two or three small internal doorways, and one which gives access to them from the garden, I shall direct attention at a subsequent page.

It is the history of this ancient House that I offer to the reader, so far as it can now be recovered. Both legend and reliable fact will be found to enter into the narrative, but little difficulty will arise in adjusting their relative claims. As the residence of a conventual body, Canyngton Priory was neither large nor wealthy. But its annals are deeply interesting, and the endeavour to rescue them from the practical oblivion in which their position among the mass of surrounding matter has hitherto availed to bury them, will not be destitute either of pleasure or of profit. I may add that so little has been already done in this direction, that almost the whole of my present contribution to the monastic knowledge of my reader will possess, at least, the charm of novelty.

In the beginning of the reign of K. Stephen, or about the year 1138, Robert de Curci, or Curcy, called William, but erroneously, by Collinson, founded the Priory of Canyngton for a community of Benedictine Nuns. The good founder was sewer, or chief butler, to the Empress Maud ; and his name, together with those of Milo, Earl of Hereford, Robert de Oilli, and others, may be noticed among the witnesses to a charter of hers, dated at Oxford, in confirmation, to the monks of S. Martin at Paris, of a donation by Baldewin, Earl of Devon, to that monastery, of the chapel of S. James's, Exeter.* His father, Richard de Curci, held, at the time of the Domesday

* Lel. Collect. j. 78. Dugd. Bar. j. 451. Mon. Angl. Ed. 1682 j. 545, 645.

Survey, Neuham, Secendene and Foxcote, in the county of Oxford.* The credit of the foundation has also been given incorrectly to William de Romara, earl of Lincoln. The heads of the family of Curci were, however, as we shall subsequently see, the constant and ordinary patrons. The House was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, but of the circumstances of the foundation or of the extent of the original endowment no record has been preserved, and the opportunity of supplying the omission is now lost for ever.

Within thirty-five years after its first establishment, a personage is traditionally associated with the community, around whom a romantic interest has ever since revolved. I am aware that the connexion of this individual with the place whose history I am now offering to the reader is purely legendary. But, if I mistake not, he will be glad to possess what has never yet been given to him, the various statements of the ancient chroniclers and others brought together and woven into one consecutive narrative. Nor will he be less interested in the story when he hears that the subject of his study is no less celebrated a person than the lady usually called "Fair Rosamund."

Fair Rosamund—Rosa Mundi, the rose of the world—was the second daughter of Walter de Clifford, the son of Richard and grandson of Ponz. Richard is mentioned in the Domesday Survey as holding lands in the counties of Oxford, Gloucester, Wilts, Worcester, and Hereford. Walter de Clifford, by his wife Margaret, had four children, Lucy, first married to Hugh de Say, and subsequently to Bartholomew de Mortimer, Rosamund, Walter, and Richard.† Of Rosamund's early life we have few particulars.

* Domesday, j. 159.
† Dugdale's Baronage, j. 335, 336.

Local tradition affirms that Canyngton was the place of her birth, and that within the walls of its Priory she received such an education as the age afforded. That, as the daughter of a powerful lord, she was entrusted to the care of some religious sisterhood for nurture, both of mind and body, there is no reason to doubt, though the old chroniclers are silent on the subject. The art of embroidery would appear to have been one of her accomplishments, for the venerable Abbey of Buildwas long possessed among its treasures a magnificent cope, which bore witness to the taste and skill of its fair embellisher.* Of her first acquaintance with King Henry, and the mode and place of her introduction to him, no details have been preserved. Probably she was known to him from her earliest years. Nor have we any reason to suppose that, according to some modern versions of the sad story, a broken vow added its shadow to a life whose record is sufficiently gloomy without this additional element of woe. Not a hint of her having been a Nun do the chroniclers give us; and, had such been the fact, full use would have been made of so great an aggravation of her offence. Her royal lover was the most unscrupulous of mankind, and the sin of "spousebreche" was but one of the many enormities for which he was notorious. His affection for Rosamund, however, such as it was, was constant. In order to protect her from the vengeance of his queen he removed her successively to various places of greater or less security. The paraphrast of Robert of Gloucester tells us:—

> Boures hadde the Rosamunde about in Englonde,
> Which this Kyng for her sake made, ich understonde;

among which were Bishops' Waltham, Wynch, Fremantel, and Martelestone. But the most famous of all, and with

* Hearne's Will. Neubr., ij., 754.

which her name is more than with all others associated, was her retreat at Woodstock. It was here that Henry built her a chamber, which Brompton describes as of wondrous architecture, "operi Dædalino similem," resembling the work of Dædalus—in other words a labyrinth or maze. A manuscript of Robert of Gloucester, in the Heralds' Office, says that

> Att Wodestoke for hure he made a toure
> That is called Rosemounde's boure,

the special intent of which was to conceal her from her royal rival. The internal decorations of this abode were as much attended to as its means of escaping external notice. The Abbat of Joreval describes a cabinet (and not, surely, as some have thought, the coffin in which the lady was afterwards buried,) of marvellous workmanship, which was one of its ornaments. It was nearly two feet in length, and on it the assault of champions, the action of animals, the flight of birds, andthe leaping of fishes were so naturally represented that the figures appeared to move.*

Rosamund did not long occupy the retreat that royal though guilty love had created for her. She died in 1177, while yet without a rival in the king's affections, and, as it would appear, of some natural disease. In after times the injured queen Eleanor had the credit of discovering her place of concealment by means of a clue of silk, incautiously left behind him by the king, which enabled her to thread the intricacies of the path, and thus of gratifying her revenge by obliging her rival to drink from her hand a cup of poison. That the queen discovered the abode of Rosamund is possible, and it may have been that the shock of the meeting and the unmeasured language which

* Brompton, in Script. x. col. 1151. Knighton, in Script. x. col. 2395. Polyd. Vergil, Angl. Hist. Lib. xiij. fol., Bas. 1570, p. 241

her majesty is said to have employed were too much for the poor victim of her womanly and natural displeasure. It is only fair, however, to say that the queen's part in the entire transaction is not alluded to by the older writers, and is probably a fiction of more modern times. The fruits of the intercourse were two sons, William Longspe, afterwards created Earl of Sarum, the firm adherent of his brother, King John, against the barons; and Geoffrey, successively Bishop of Lincoln and Archbishop of York.

Rosamund was buried in the first instance before the high altar in the Church of Godstow Nunnery, which was probably selected from its neighbourhood to Woodstock, and which henceforward enjoyed a goodly number of benefactions in memory of her and for the health of her soul. The corpse was wrapped in leather and then placed in a coffin of lead. Over the whole Henry built a magnificent tomb, which was covered with a pall of silk, and surrounded by tapers constantly burning. This occurred in the lifetime of her father, for he gave to the nuns of Godstow, in pure and perpetual alms, for the health of the souls of Margaret his wife and of Rosamund his daughter, his mill at Franton with all appurtenances, a meadow adjacent to the same called Lechtun, and a salt-pit in Wiche. Walter his son confirmed the gift. Osbert Fitzhugh added to this the grant of a salt-pit in Wiche, called the Cow, pertaining to his manor of Wichebalt.* Indeed Walsingham goes so far as to say, though incorrectly, that the Nunnery of Godstow was actually founded by King John for the soul of Rosamund.† It is not unlikely that a chantry was endowed by that King for the

* Monast. Angl. iv., p. 366. Dugd. Bar. j. 335, 336.
† Wals. Ypodigma Neustriæ, fol. Lond. 1574, p. 56, sub an. 1216.

object stated, but the foundation of the House itself was beyond question the work of a much earlier period.

Her remains, however, were not long allowed to occupy their sepulchre in peace. Fourteen years after their solemn commission to this sacred place of interment, S. Hugh, bishop of Lincoln, in a visitation of his Diocese, came to Godstow. After he had entered the Church and performed his devotions, he observed the tomb occupying its conspicuous position before the high altar, adorned as already described, and forthwith asked whose it was. On being informed that it was the grave of Rosamund, whom Henry the late king had so dearly loved, and for whose sake he had greatly enriched this hitherto small and indigent House, and had given land for the sustentation of the tomb and the maintenance of the lights, he imperatively commanded the nuns to take her out of the Church, and to bury her with other common people, as the connexion between her and the King had been base and adulterous; and to the end that the Christian Religion might not be vilified, but that other women might thus be deterred from similar evil ways.*

In obedience to the Bishop's mandate the tomb was removed from the Church and erected in the Chapter-house. It bore the following epitaph, containing the obvious play upon the lady's name and declaratory of the unhappy contrast which death had effected :—

Hic jacet in tumba Rosa mundi, non Rosa munda;
Non redolet, sed olet, quae redolere solet.

This tomb remained, an object of much interest and respect, until the dissolution of the House. It was then destroyed, and a stone was discovered with it bearing the

* Higden, Polychron. sub Hen. ij. Rog. Hoveden, fol. 405 b. Brompton, in Script. x. col. 1235. Leland, Coll. j. 291. Fabyan, sub Hen. ij., &c.

simple inscription "TUMBA ROSAMUNDÆ." The bones were found undecayed, and on the opening of the leaden coffin which contained them, says Leland, "there was a very swete smell came out of it."* Another eye-witness describes it as having "enterchangeable weavings drawn out and decked with roses red and green, and the picture of the Cup, out of which she drank the poyson given her by the Queen, carved in stone."† A coffin, of the same material, said to be that of Rosamund, was still to be seen at Godstow when Hearne wrote his "Account of some Antiquities in and about Oxford," but was regarded by him as a "Fiction of the Vulgar."

I hardly need add that the history of the unhappy lady, of whom the reader now possesses all that can be gathered from olden sources, and more perhaps than can be accepted as true, was a favourite subject of mediæval romance, and that all kinds of embellishments were imported into the tale in order to impress a salutary caution against any imitation of the heroine. One example must suffice. In "Dives and Pauper," a tract printed by Richard Pynson in 1493, the King is represented as determined to inspect the corpse of his deceased mistress. "Whanne the grave was openned," says the narrator, "there sate on orrible tode upon hir breste * * * * and a foule adder begirt hir body aboute in the middle." And the accompaniments were altogether of so disagreeable a kind "that the King ne none other might stande to see that orryble sight. Then the King did shut again the grave, and did write Hic jacet, &c.," the epitaph with which the reader is already acquainted. How corrupting soever may have been the evil example of Rosamund during her life, she was thus

* Lel. frag., in bibl. Cott. Dugd. Mon. iv. 365.
† Mr. Thomas Allen, in Hearne's Will. Neubrige, ij. 739.

made a beacon and a solemn warning for long ages after she had left the world. And yet, with the hopeful and charitable spirit in behalf of those who had repented of error and had been reconciled to good, which was so truly characteristic of mediæval times, though the sin was denounced the sinner was restored to love. Rosamund's example and Rosamund's prayers were equally, though in opposite ways, regarded as imparting a blessing. Down even to the reign of Henry VIII. the traveller, as he passed over Godstow bridge, could read on a cross the inscription that told him that, as others had prayed for Rosamund, Rosamund was ready to pray for him :—

Qui meat hac oret signum salutis adoret,
Vtque sibi detur veniam Rosamunda precetur.*
Good traveller who shall pass this way,
And at this cross shall kneel and pray,
Thy suitor Rosamund shall be,
And pardon shall implore for thee.

We now arrive at another fact which exhibits the House in a very interesting light. Hugh Wallis, Archdeacon of Wells, and subsequently Bishop of Lincoln, who was consecrated on the 20th of December, 1209, and died on the 7th of February, 1234-5, by his will, dated the Feast of S. Brice, the 13th of November, in the third year of his pontificate, left five marcs to the House of Caninton.† This may be taken as an evidence of the good will of an observant ruler and zealous disciplinarian, and, as such, of the unsullied name and fame of the community thus distinguished.

One of the Sisters at this early period was a daughter of the knightly family of De Merriet, of Hestercombe. A most interesting memorial of this lady is still to be seen in

* Lel. Itin. ij., p. 137. Dugd. Mon. iv., 365.
† MS. Harl., 6968, pp. 19, 20.

(Actual size.)

From an Inscribed Slab in memory of Maud de Merriete, Nun of Canyngton;
In the Church of Combe Flory, Somerset.

Tho. Hugo del. & lith. 1863.

the church of Combe Flory. It is an inscribed slab, of early 13th-century work, inserted in the wall of the north aisle, and marks the spot where was deposited the heart of Dame Maud de Merriete, a nun of Cannyntune. The legend runs:—

✝ : LE : DUCK : DAME : MAUD DE : MERIE
ETE : NONAYNE : DE : CANYNTUNE :

The Lombardic letters are of first-rate excellence, and I have endeavoured to give the reader some faint idea of their beauty in the accompanying illustration. (*See the Figure.*) The act to which the inscription refers was exemplified only in the case of a few persons of superior rank and consequence; and, although the Sisterhoods of that day included an abundant proportion of such, a similar instance is of the greatest rarity. Nor did the Church ever look kindly upon a practice which necessarily involved a violation of that body which had been the recipient of the Sacraments, and was consigned to the grave in sure and certain hope of a future resurrection. It would appear, however, that the members of the lady's family were more than ordinarily in favour of it, for, singularly enough, I have found in Bishop John de Drokenesford's Register the discharge of a sentence of excommunication passed on Sir John de Meriet for the removal of the heart from the corpse of his deceased wife, when a penance was enjoined for the same, by order of Berengarius, Bishop of Tusculum, the Pope's penitentiary, and it was further directed that the heart should be interred with the body from which it had been taken. The absolution was dated at Woky, the 28th of March, 1314.*

* Reg. Drok., f. lxvij. b. Appendix, No. I.

In the account of Fees holden either immediately from the King, or from others who so held them, called the Testa de Nevill, and apparently compiled from inquests taken about the year 1270, the Nuns of Kaninton are returned as holding at that place three acres of arable land, and three acres of meadow, of the annual value of two shillings.*

The Taxatio of Pope Nicholas IV. furnishes us with no valuation of any of the possessions of the House. That record, as my readers will remember, was compiled between the years 1288 and 1292, for the purpose of determining the value of all ecclesiastical property, the tenth of which was granted by the Pope to King Edward I. towards providing the means of a crusade. The Church of Pudelton in Dorsetshire, however, is entered as paying to the Prioress a portion, of the annual value of thirteen shillings and fourpence, whereof the required tenth was one shilling and fourpence.† The omission of their appropriated Church of Canyngton is the more unaccountable, as there is no reason to doubt either that it existed, or that the Sisters were in possession of it when the Taxation was made. It was probably a part of the original endowment of their House.

It would seem that shortly after this date some circumstances of an unpleasant nature, but of which no record is extant, occurred in the cemetery of the Convent. For on the 11th of September, 1311, Bishop John de Drokenesford issued from Grenewyc a commission to John, Bishop of Cork, on account of his necessary absence in parliament and consequent inability of celebrating Orders in his Cathedral Church on the Saturday next after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which in that

* Test. de Nev. p. 173.

† P. Nich. Tax. p. 179. Hutchin's Dorset. Ed. 2. ij. p. 207.

year was coincident with the 18th of September, empowering him to officiate in his stead, and, among other episcopal acts, to "reconcile the cemetery of the poor Nuns of Kenynton."* This ceremony of reconciliation was the re-consecration of a sacred place after it had been polluted either by effusion of blood or by heretical possession.

We now arrive at the first of a series of similar examples which the History of Canyngton Priory will be found to afford, illustrative of the regard in which it and its sister establishments were ordinarily held in mediæval times. It was there that security and purity were acknowledged inmates; and, in proof of this, a temporary asylum was constantly found in such Houses for women whose natural protectors were either removed by death or necessarily absent in their country's service. This exhibits a very interesting feature in the social state of these Communities, to which at present I can only thus briefly allude. The Bishop wrote to the Prioress and Sisters, conveying his permission to them to receive Dame Dyonisia Peverel, to live in their House at her own proper cost, and as long as his will and pleasure should allow. The letter was dated at Kyngesbiri, on the 25th of March, 1313.†

Henry is the first vicar of Canyngton of whom we have any account. A commission was issued by Bishop John de Drokenesford to John de Godelegh, Dean of Wells, Antony de Bradeneye, Canon, and William de Edyngton, Rector of Baudrip, to investigate certain charges against him, especially in a cause matrimonial between Sibilla daughter of Petronilla de Assche and Laurence atte

* Reg. Drok. f. xxxvij.
† Reg. Drok. f. cxlixb. Appendix, No. II.

Graung. The commission was dated at Waleworth, the 2nd of April, 1313.*

In the following year the Prioress and Sisters exercised their ordinary right as patrons of the vicarage of Canyngton. They presented William de Trent, chaplain, to that benefice on the 18th of July, 1314.†

Before the end of the year the Sisters received a further accession of visitors. On the 27th of December the Bishop addressed to them from Wollauinton a complimentary letter, informing them that, in compliance with the entreaty of some friends who were spending that holy festival with him, he had given them permission to receive the wife and two sisters of John Ffychet, of whose good and honest conversation he was informed, for sojourn in their House during the absence of the said John in foreign parts, or as much of that interval as should be agreeable to them. The ladies were to live at their own proper cost, and their presence was not to attract other strangers, to the burden of the House or suspicion of scandal.‡

This was shortly afterwards followed by a similar permission in favour of Isabel Barayl, with the same injunctions appended. The lady was doubtless a relative of one of the Sisters, as we shall presently meet with an Agnes Baril among that body. The Bishop's letter was dated at La Place, the 18th of February, 1314-15.‖

Pursuant to a writ tested at Clypston, the 5th of March, 1315-16, the ninth year of K. Edward II., the Prioress was certified as holding the township of Canyngton, in the county of Somerset.§

* Reg. Drok. f. cxxxviijb.
† Reg. Drok. f. lxxj. MS. Harl. 6964, p. 19.
‡ Reg. Drok. f. lxxiijb. Appendix, No. III.
‖ Reg. Drok., f. lxxiiijb.
§ Parl. Writs, p. II., pp. 379, 684.

Early in the following year, 1317, Emma de Bytelescumb (incorrectly named Gytelescumb by Dr. Archer and others), the first Prioress whose name has been preserved, resigned her office. The government of the House would seem to have been a matter of considerable difficulty, and in the election of a successor to the vacant dignity the Bishop was obliged unpleasantly to interfere. The process which ensued was a long one, and the reader will arrive at a correct notion of the caution and particularity which were exercised on these occasions by carefully attending to the following details.

In the first place a commission was issued to Thomas de Dylinton, precentor, and Antony de Bradeney, Canon of Wells, empowering them, as the Bishop himself was hindered by the pressure of important business from being present in person, as he had hoped, on the Tuesday next after the feast of S. Mark, the 26th of April, in the prebendal church of Wyvelescombe, to examine and proceed against certain delinquents and certain misbehaving Sisters in the said Priory, and also to prorogue the matter affecting the same to the next juridical day after the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, in the aforesaid church, before himself or his Commissaries. The commission was dated at Blakeford, the 24th of April, 1317.*

In obedience to this mandate, on Wednesday, the morrow of the Invention of the Holy Cross, the 4th of May, Agnes de Neumarch (or Newmarket, as she is afterwards called "de novo Mercato,") and Sibilla de Horsy, Sisters of the House, appeared personally before the Lord Bishop, their Ordinary; and the former, on her own part and that of her Sisters, presented Dame Matilda de Morton, also personally

* Reg. Drok., f. ciiijb.

appearing, as elected to the office of Prioress. On her being questioned whether all things had been done in the said election according to law, it was found that the presentation was without the necessary authority. The act was accordingly pronounced invalid, but at the Sisters' urgent entreaty and the request of Robert Fitzpagan, the patron, also present, another day was graciously assigned. This was the Tuesday next after the feast of S. John before the Latin Gate, or the 10th of May, when it was ordered that the parties should appear before the Bishop or his Commissaries, and the defects of the former election should be supplied. On the aforesaid day Matilda de Morton appeared before the Bishop's Commissaries, together with her Sisters Agnes de Newmarket and Amabilia Trevet, when Agnes exhibited their procuratory from their Sisters and a written declaration, by which it appeared that Agnes and Amabilia were empowered, conjointly and separately, to petition, in their own name and that of the Convent, that the previous election should be confirmed. After the exhibition and reading thereof, they further by Gilbert de Schepton, clerk, verbally declared that the election had taken place subsequently to the usual religious solemnities, and that it was irrevocable; and, in conclusion, exhibited the decree, as it appeared, of the aforesaid election, which had been proceeded with only after the Bishop's acceptance of the resignation of the previous Prioress and the permission of the patron to elect a successor. As, after question, they replied that they had nothing further to propose, this concluded their case. The Commissaries thereupon gave notice to all objectors to declare the reasons of their opposition, and appointed for the hearing of such the Tuesday next after the feast of the Holy Trinity, the 31st of May, in the aforesaid monastery.

Previous to the hearing a new commission was issued by the Bishop to Henry de Schanyngton, Archdeacon of Tanton, Thomas de Dylington, Precentor, Antony de Bradeneye and William de Lanton, Canons of Wells, and Richard de Fford, Doctor of Laws, to examine the election of the aforesaid Matilda, on the day aforesaid, in the Chapter-house of the aforesaid Monastery, to make a scrutiny of the votes secretly and one by one, to hear any who desired to offer objections against the election or the persons of the elect or electors, to send him on the Thursday following a faithful account of their proceedings, under the seals of four, or at least three, of them, and to assign to the elect and the others whom it concerned the Thursday next before the feast of S. Barnabas the Apostle, the 9th of June, for another meeting in the parish Church of Canyngton, then and there to proceed in the matter of the said election before the Bishop or his Commissaries. This was dated at Wyvelescomb, the 28th of May.* On the 31st of May, Matilda and her Sisters aforesaid being present, after the reading of the commission, the opponents were cited to appear and offer their objections, according to law. Upon this Johanna de Bratton, a Nun of the Priory professed, exhibited in writing a petition against the election and the person of the elect. The Commissaries, having given her the aid of counsel in accordance with her request, proceeded to investigate the several objections, which the record unfortunately does not particularise, and called before them and examined several of the Sisters one by one in proof of their validity. After enquiring whether any further objection remained, and furnishing the opposite side with a copy of them as delivered by the objectors,

* Reg. Drok. f. cvjb.

the Commissaries summoned both parties, in agreement with the terms of their commission, to meet in the parish Church of Canyngton on the Thursday next before the feast of S. Barnabas, the 9th of June. On that day, both parties being again present, after the reading of the commission and a long disputation, on oath of the objectors that they believed their objections to be true and capable of proof, these brought thereto the following Sisters as witnesses who were forthwith admitted to give evidence; namely, Margery de Wythel, Johanna de Ber, Eugenia Durdent, Alice de Scolond, Alice de Hydon, Johanna de Scolond and Agnes Baril. The Commissaries were further solicited to subpœna a number of other witnesses, Walter de Lof, William de Kingeston, John de Sattesden and others ; and copies of the commission and other documents were given to Matilda, at the request of her and her party. The business was again deferred to the Friday next after the feast of SS. Vitus and Modestus, the 17th of June, when both parties were ordered to appear before the Commissaries, personally, or by their proctors, in the parish Church of Langeport. Before that day another commission was issued, bearing date at Kyngesbury, the 16th of June, and continuing to the same Commissaries the powers previously conferred.* At the meeting on the day following, Johanna appointed John Noreys, as her proctor, and Matilda was represented by Hugh de Whythurst, clerk. With the other Commissaries were present Henry de Schaninton, Archdeacon of Tanton, and Thomas de Dilington, Precentor of Wells, who, it will be remembered, had been named in the two previous commissions, but had hitherto been absent. The commission and previous proceedings having been read, together with a certificate from the

* Reg. Drok. f. 8b.

Dean of Brugewater, that the witnesses before alluded to had been subpœnaed and were ready to give true evidence, these persons were examined under oath, and their answers written down in full. That day and the Saturday following were occupied in these proceedings. At length, having thus exhausted all possible means of arriving at the truth, and being desirous of providing for the safety of the Sisters, by concluding a vacancy which was naturally productive of so many dangers, the Commissaries proceeded to the final pronunciation of their sentence. It was that, inasmuch as, after a long and careful hearing and examination of the merits of the case, they found the election of the said Matilda, elected through the resignation of Dame Emma de Bytelescumb, the late Prioress, to be uncanonical, and notoriously both in form and matter and in the person of the elect faulty, they, invoking the power of the Holy Ghost, and aided by the counsel of assessors learned in the law, pronounced finally and definitively the election of the said Matilda, who was unfit and unworthy, to be none, frivolous, of no effect, and altogether without force. Further, that the Nuns of the aforesaid Monastery by their choice of an unworthy Superior had lost for that turn their power of election, and that the appointment of the future Prioress had accordingly devolved on the Bishop or his Commissaries. In order, however, that the House might no longer be destitute of the comfort of a Governor, and lest the Nuns in disgrace of their religion should become the victims of the rapacity of the evil one and his servants, and of the natural frailty of their sex, in the name of God and by the authority committed to them, they selected Dame Johanna de Bere, of that Monastery, a Nun professed, of lawful age, born of lawful wedlock, knowing and able to defend its rights and

possessions, of known circumspection both in temporal and spiritual affairs, and in respect of whom no objection could be taken against her elevation to the vacant office, and her competent performance of its duties; and they appointed her to be Prioress, and canonically instituted her as such by those presents with all her rights and appurtenences in the aforesaid Monastery; and ordered her to be inducted into corporal possession of the Office and House aforesaid, and to be defended after such induction.*

Such was the aspect of the case on the 18th of June, 1317. The reader will hardly be prepared to learn that, after so long and minute an investigation, and so formal and solemn a decision, another commission was issued in the following month, the effect of which was entirely to reverse the previous arrangement. The commission was dated at Blakeford, on the 12th of July, and was addressed to Henry de Schanynton, Archdeacon of Tanton, and William de Lanton, Canon of Wells; and the matter ordered for their examination was an alleged infringement of the Bishop's jurisdiction and contempt of his office, for which offences correction and punishment were demanded.† What answer the Commissaries returned does not appear, but a few weeks afterwards a commission was addressed to John de Godelee, Dean of Wells, and Master Henry de Pencery, to admit, receive, and accept the renunciation of Dame Matilda, a Nun of the House, lately elected Prioress, in respect of all the appeals and judicial processes con-

* Reg. Drok. ff. 7, 7b, 8, 8b. Abstract in MSS. Harl. 6964, pp. 1,54. 6985 B. f. 124.

The reader will perceive from the references that the folios in the Register do not retain their original and chronological order. This was the fault of some ancient binder, but is not of material importance, as the date appended to each instrument enables us to determine the exact sequence.

† Reg Drok f. cvj.

nected with the previous election, and the resignation of all rights appertaining to her by virtue thereof, and also the resignation of Dame Johanna de Ber, canonically appointed by the Bishop to the office of Prioress by the right of election which had devolved to him, with that of all rights appertaining to her by virtue of that appointment; together with the plenary submission of the aforesaid resigning Nuns, and of all the other Sisters of the aforesaid House. The Commissaries were further empowered to select according to their discretion some competent Sister of the House for the future Prioress. Their commission was sealed and dated at Rokeburn, on the 18th of the Kalends of September, or the 15th of August, 1317.* The Commissaries took the most prudent and probably the most just course of procedure, and selected the lady whom their predecessors had rejected. Peace was hereupon re-established, and so little did the contest affect the good feeling of the contending parties, that, on the occurrence of a subsequent vacancy, we shall find one of the foremost opponents of Johanna de Bere arrayed on her side and promoting her election.

One of her main supporters on the present occasion was, as it would appear, connected with several ecclesiastics of the diocese. William de Bratton was Rector of Thorne Fagon, and received a dispensation of absence to study, on the 17th of September, 1311 ;† and Robert de Bratton obtained licence in behalf of a private oratory, on the 3rd of June, 1317.‡

It not unfrequently happened that during the wars of England with other countries, the incumbents of alien

* Reg. Drok. f. clb. Abstract in MSS. Harl. 6964, pp. 1,54. 6985 B. f. 124.
† Reg. Drok. f. xxxvijb.
‡ Reg. Drok. f. cvb.

benefices, the patronage of which belonged to foreign Monasteries, were deprived of a part or the whole of their revenues. John Ffromund, Vicar of Stokecursy, and Roger Ffromund, Rector of Holeford, were labouring at this time under such an infliction. By a brief, dated at Westminster, the 4th of March, 1324-5, the eighteenth year of Edward II., the King committed to William, Vicar of Canyngton, the custody of the goods ecclesiastical of these two incumbents during the continuation of the war between England and France.*

The next fact again takes us within the precincts of the House. On the 16th of April, 1326, licence at the Bishop's pleasure was granted to Brother Robert de Tanton, one of the Friars Minors of Bruggwater, to hear the confessions of the Prioress and Nuns of Canyngton, and to impose penances and grant absolutions even in cases reserved to the Bishop himself. The licence was dated at Blakeford, on the day above mentioned.†

This was the last act that, so far as I can find, was performed in the convent's behalf by the good Bishop John de Drokenesford. He died at Dogmersfeld, on the 9th of May, 1329.

His successor, Ralph of Shrewsbury, whose episcopal reign began on the 2nd of September, 1329, wrote in French to the Prioress and Sisters, "a nos trescheres filles en Dieu Priouresse et Couent de Kanyngton, oue la beneissoun Dieu et la nostre saluz," requiring them to admit Alice, daughter of John de Northlode, as a Nun of their House. He claimed to do this by virtue of his late election, and after the custom of his predecessors. The letter was written from London, on

* Reg. Drok. f. ccxxvjb.
† Reg. Drok. f. ccxlixb.

the 20th of January, 1329-30.* A similar missive, dated at Dogmersfeld, on the 1st of the following March, was sent to the Prioress and Nuns of Barwe, who were commanded to receive into their sisterhood Elizabeth, the daughter of Hamon le Fitz Richard, Knt. And it was added that the Bishop acted in both of these requests at the instance of his dearest friend the Prior of Bath.† It would appear, however, that the Sisters did not feel themselves under much obligation to their neighbour at Bath, for after waiting a considerable time the Bishop had to refresh their memories on the subject of his former letter, and to insist upon an immediate conformity with its request, in virtue of their canonical obedience. This mandate was sent from Woky in the beginning of July, as the next entry is dated at the same place on the 9th of that month, 1333.‡

The circumstance to which we have now arrived is one very characteristic of the times in which it occurred. On the 20th of September, 1332, at Westminster, a writ was addressed to Henry le Gilden, the eschaetor, to find whether the King might without damage to himself or others grant licence to Robert Ffiutz Payn to give twenty-four acres of land with appurtenances in Canyngton and Radeweye, held by the said Robert of the King in chief, to the Prioress and Nuns of Canyngton and their successors, in aid of the maintenance of a Chaplain, who should celebrate Divine Service every day in the Church of Canyngton for the soul of the said Robert, and those of his ancestors and heirs, and of all the faithful departed. The jury

* Reg. Rad. f. xiij. MS. Harl. 6965. p. 20.
† Reg. Rad. ff. xixb, xx.
‡ Rad. Reg. f. lxxxiij (1.).

met at Somerton, on Thursday, the morrow of S. Martin, in the sixth year of Edward III., or the 12th of November, 1332. Most of the jurors' names are illegible, but those of William Chaundos, William Cordulkent, Hugh Brun, and John Stenyngg can yet be deciphered. They returned a verdict that no damage would result from such licence being accorded, and that there was no mesne lord between the King and the aforesaid Robert.* The licence with the ordinary reservations was granted accordingly, by writ of privy seal, on the payment by the said Robert of a fine of forty shillings, and is dated, witness the King, at York, the 28th of January, 1332-3.†

The government of the House had again become too onerous for the shoulders on which it had been placed. After a conventual reign of nearly seventeen years Matilda de Morton resigned her office, and on the 12th of January, 1333-4, the Bishop granted to the Sub-prioress and convent his licence for the election of of a successor.‡ The choice fell on Willelma de Blachyngdon.

This lady did not long retain possession of her dignity. She died on the 4th of May, 1336. And here the Bishop's Register gives us in detail the particulars of the ensuing appointment, which will doubtless be of considerable interest to the students of monastic chronicles. Indeed it is only by the possession of these series of minute events and the consequent completeness of details that we can at all be said to understand the system of which they formed a part, or can in imagina-

* Inq. p. m. 6 Edw. iij. 2 nos. n. 94. Appendix, No. III.
† Pat. 7 Edw. iij. p. 1. m. 28.
‡ Reg. Rad. f. lxxxixb. MS. Harl. 6965. p. 77.

tion enter into the sacred precincts wherein they were transacted, or throw ourselves into the picturesque life of those olden days and estimate them as they deserve. Johanna de Bractone, Sub-prioress, evidently the same Sister (with a slight difference in the orthography of her name, which will be easily understood by those who are conversant with the manuscripts of this period) who had headed the opposition to Matilda de Morton nearly twenty years before, wrote to the Bishop informing him that Willelma de Blachyngdon had died on the day above mentioned, and, after the customary expression of obedience, proceeded to give him the particulars of the election of her successor. After the burial of the deceased Prioress, and the petition for and reception of the licence to elect from Robert Ffitzpayn, the patron, the Sisterhood met in their Chapter-house on the 16th of May, and appointed the day following for the election. On that day they again met, and, "lecto et exposito capitulo," appointed Lucy de Raleghe, Sister of the House, as their procurator. All under ecclesiastical suspension or interdict were then ordered by this Sister to depart, and three Sisters were selected, Johanna de Beare, Christina Robe and Alice de Holtham, as scrutators to take the votes, enter them in writing, and afterwards publish them. These retired to a corner of the Chapter-house, took the votes secretly and one by one, and afterwards published them by virtue of their office. Those of Christina Robe, Alice de Holtham, Margaret de Hampton, Avice Reyners, Lucy de Popham, Johanna de Alwynesheye, Matilda de Northelode, Johanna Trimelet, Alice de Northelode, and Agnes de Nywemarch were in favour of Johanna de Beare. Two, Johanna de Bracton, Sub-prioress, and

Johanna de Beare were for Avice Reyners, and Lucy de Raleghe was for Johanna de Bracton. Two thirds of the Chapter and more—for the Sisters then amounted, as is evident, to thirteen in number—were thus found to be in favour of Johanna de Beare (who, as the reader will hardly fail to recollect, had been appointed by the Bishop to the office of Prioress in 1317, but had been afterwards commanded to resign her dignity), who was described as provident, discreet, in life and manners altogether commendable, of lawful age, born in lawful wedlock, and circumspect in temporal and spiritual matters. Upon this, Alice de Holtham, by their command and in their presence, solemnly read the election to the assembled Sisterhood. They then sang *Te Deum*, and bore the elect to the high altar according to custom, and by the same Alice de Holtham, to whom they deputed that duty, announced the election to the clergy and a great number of the laity then and there present. Afterwards, about the sixth hour of the same day, the election of the said elect was presented to her by the said Alice, and she was questioned as to her assent. The said Johanna elect replied that she wished to deliberate, and, having been again questioned and repeatedly urged to comply by the said Alice, in the evening of the same day, being unwilling to resist the Divine will, declared her assent. The writer concluded by soliciting the Bishop's assent to and confirmation of their act. The letter was sealed and dated in their Chapter-house of Kanyngton, the 17th of May, 1336.*

Appended to this are copies of several documents connected with the election. The first is William de

* Reg. Rad. ff. cliijb, cliiij.

Ludeford the notary's certificate of the proceedings, dated on the same day as the previous letter, and a repetition for the most part of the narrative which it contained. He adds that Agnes de Neumarch was ill and confined to her bed, but that the deputation of Sisters waited on her and received her vote; and that John de Middeltone, rector of Scheptonebeauchamp, and Stephen Tryppe, rector of Westcamel, were present, the former of whom announced the election.* Then follow the appointment by Johanna de Bractone, Subprioress, of Lucy de Raleghe to warn all and singular suspended and incompetent persons against taking part in the election;† that of Johanna de Beare, Christina Robe and Alice de Holtham to act as scrutators, and to take the votes and publish the result;‡ the appointment of Alice de Holtham as their procurator to inform the elect of her election, and to solicit her consent;‖ and that of William de Trente, vicar of Kanyngton, and John de Wyuelescombe, as their procurators, to ask and obtain a day to present to the Bishop their nomination and election, and to exhibit and present the same on the day appointed.§ The former instruments were dated on the 17th, and the last on the 18th of May. The Bishop confirmed the election, and committed to the elect the administration of the spirituals and temporals of the convent with all the rights appertaining thereunto, at Wyvelescombe, on the 3rd of the following month of June, 1336.¶ At the same place and time he signified his confirmation to

* Reg. Rad. ff. cliiij, cliijb, clv.
† Ib. f. clv. ‡ Ib. ‖ Ib. § H. f. clvb.
¶ Reg. Rad. f. cliij. MS. Harl. 6965, p. 105.

Robert le Ffitzpain, the patron;* ordered the Archdeacon of Taunton to install, induct, and to put the Prioress in corporal possession;† and wrote to the Sub-prioress and convent to accept the elect, and to pay her due and canonical obedience.‡

In the October of the same year the Bishop granted permission to the Prioress and Convent to receive two ladies, Johanna Wason and Maud Poer, with two maid-servants, to sojourn, by the assent and will of the Sisters, in their Priory of Kanyngton, until the following Easter, provided that such residence should not be detrimental, prejudicial, or depreciatory either to them or their House. The letter was written in French, and addressed to them from Banewelle, on the 14th of October, 1336.‖

This was followed on the 4th of November by a similar letter, also addressed to them from Banewell, in favour of Isabella Ffichet, who was permitted to reside together with one maidservant in the Priory until Easter.§

Prioress Johanna de Beare was numbered with her predecessors in 1343. On the 12th of August Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury wrote from Banewelle to Avice de Reigners, who, it will be recollected, was second at the election of the last Prioress, and whom her Sisters had now elected, confirming her in her office, and committing to her the rule and administration of her House.¶ On the same day he forwarded his mandate to the Archdeacon of Tanton, or his official, to install and induct her; and

* Reg. Rad. f. cliijb. † Reg. Rad. f. cliijb.

‡ Reg. Rad. f. cliijb.

‖ Reg. Rad. f. cxlix. As it may interest many of my readers to have a specimen of the French of this period, I have placed the original in the Appendix, No. IV.

§ Reg. Rad. f. cl.

¶ Reg. Rad. f. cclxxxij. MS. Harl. 6965, p. 158.

to the Sub-prioress and Convent, informing them that he had confirmed their election, and enjoining obedience to the elect.* As the Archdeacon was unable to perform his duty in person, and promptitude was desirable, the Bishop issued his commission from Banewelle, on the 13th of August, to the Rector of Oterhampton, to induct, install, and put her in corporal possession without further and injurious delay, and to certify him that he had so done.†

A dark cloud was now coming over the House, and soon resulted in a storm the particulars of which I would willingly conceal. As, however, in the annals of other Monasteries I have endeavoured to give my reader as faithful a picture as a conscientious and truthful search among their records have enabled me, so it shall be my aim on the present occasion. The suppression of essential truth is, in my judgment, equivalent to an assertion of falsehood, inasmuch as the reader, who depends on the faithfulness of his author, will be equally misled by both. Nor will the inherent excellencies of the Monastic System, as actively doing its work in the ages now under our review, suffer by this publicity any suspicion of their reality in a judicious and reasonable mind. Human nature is a thing of frailty, and the pretence of absolute perfection, which an ignoring of all wrong affects, is of itself sufficient to induce a question of its truth. That picture is necessarily the most to be depended on which exhibits the dark aspect as well as the fair. And mediæval Monasticism can well afford to have those occasional faults displayed, which are common to it and to all other institutions, when so surpassing were its merits, so refining its influence, and so zealous and well-directed its powers to bless.

* Reg. Rad. f. cclxxxij.
† Reg. Rad. f. cclxxxij.

An intimation was conveyed to the Prioress that the Bishop would officially visit her House on the Friday next after the feast of S. Luke the Evangelist, the 21st of October, 1351. In his mandate he stated that he proposed to visit her in humility and gentleness, and cited her and through her all her Sisters to present themselves before him or his Commissaries in their Chapter-house, on the day aforesaid, there to receive his visitation with humility, and to accept from him or them that which should be lawful and consonant to reason. They were also to furnish him or his Commissaries with a certificate respecting the matters of presentment, together with their names in a paper annexed thereto, distinctly and clearly written, and under their common seal. The letter was dated at Banewell, the 8th of October.*

On the day appointed for the visitation the inquiry took place before John de Sydenhale and Nicholas Pontefract, the Bishop's Commissaries. In the official report inserted in the Register it is set forth that there were various matters discovered as transacted in and connected with the House which called for correction and amendment. Two of the Nuns, Matilda Pulham and Alice Northlode, the latter of whom has been already mentioned as voting in the election of the Prioress, were known, to the violation of their monastic vow and the shame of their sex, to keep company with, and too frequently to admit, sundry suspected women, and were also much too intimate with the Chaplains, Richard Sompnor and Hugh Willyng, with whom they held by night long and suspicious conversations, and by consequence, as was suspected by many, fell into worse evils. Further, that, not content with these improprieties, the

* Reg. Rad. ff. cccIxxxxiij b, cccIxxxxiiij. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 241.

said Matilda was in the habit of tempting many of the servitors to incontinence; and that the said Alice had, in many places secret and fit for the evil purpose and at hours convenient, been guilty of incontinence with the said Richard Sompnor. That when charged by the Prioress with that and other irregularities, the said Alice refused even once to say "mea culpa." That the said Matilda had unadvisedly and immodestly revealed the secrets of the Chapter to various lay persons in the neighbourhood. That the same "virago," in reply to the Prioress and Sisters detesting and inveighing against her for her shameless conduct, had threatened to work them some grievous harm with knives and other weapons. That both of them were sunk in the depths of malice, and made light of the canonical obedience which they owed to the Prioress, and by their sensuality brought disgrace upon their vow and a scandal on their House. On proof of all this it was ordered that Matilda should sit last, and Alice last but one, in choir and refectory during the celebration of the Office and in refections, that they should keep the cloister for a whole year, and on no account go forth from it, and that all and singular the men suspected of the said Monastery should be dismissed and sent away.

The Commissaries then turned their attention to the case of another Sister. They discovered that a Nun, Johanna Trimelet, whose name also has been already before us, had been frequently guilty of incontinence, and had given birth to a child, to the grave disgrace and confusion of her vow. Although the crime was so foul and scandalous, the Commissaries professed themselves unwilling to cloak or conceal it. They therefore ordained, and in virtue of her obedience enjoined that the said Johanna should remain for a whole year imprisoned in one house

within the precinct of the Monastery ; that, with a view of repressing her youthful ardours, " suos calores macerans juveniles," she should fast on bread and water on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, and that on all other days during the time aforesaid she should have for her maintenance bread, pottage, and ale only. The judges were not men by whom even smaller breaches of discipline were disregarded. They therefore commanded that all and singular the Nuns of the Monastery aforesaid should daily be bound to assemble for refection in the common refectory, and that the Prioress should by no means absent herself from the repast, unless for some reasonable cause, for the truth of which they charged her conscience before God. This lady herself did not escape judgment. It was discovered in the course of the visitation as a thing notorious, and the Commissaries recorded the fact with grief, that the Prioress had admitted four women as Sisters of the House, for each of whom she had received twenty pounds, thus falling into simoniacal depravity which is the worst of crimes; that she had also sold a number of corrodies in the House without the Bishop's licence obtained or solicited ; and this, without any advantage to the Sisters, but to the burdening of their House with a debt of more than £18 sterling. That the Sisters were in many ways illtreated by the stubborn and disobedient servants of the Prioress, and could gain no redress, although they earnestly and humbly besought her for it. The Commissaries felt themselves unable to palliate or pass over these matters sub silentio; yet, desirous of tempering the rigour of the law with mercy, they appointed that, until it should be otherwise ordered, two of her Sisters, discreet and circumspect in temporal matters, should be joined

to the Prioress in the administration of the temporalities of the House, apart from whose counsel and assent she should do nothing. Then the conduct of the Sub-prioress was examined, and it was discovered that she had in many ways neglected her duty against delinquent Sisters, that she absented herself without cause from matins and other canonical hours, and had evilly encouraged others to do the like. The Commissaries ordered that she should be rebuked for these faults by the Prioress in the Chapter, openly in the presence of all her Sisters. And they concluded their Ordinance by strictly directing that, for the better regulation of the House in future, no secular person should be permitted to sojourn therein, to the grievance and injury of the Nuns.*

In explanation of one item in this Ordinance, I may inform the reader who feels surprise at the command that a criminal should be bound to keep the precincts of her House, that very much greater latitude than modern times suppose was accorded to the members of mediæval Sisterhoods. It was not for upwards of two centuries subsequent to the transaction now before us, that Nuns were rigidly confined to the boundaries of their conventual home. Previous to this, they visited their friends in the neighbourhood and elsewhere, and were allowed, with certain provisions for their safety and good name, to keep up a friendly correspondence with the laity of their own sex. It would have been no unusual circumstance in mediæval times to meet a Sister of Canyngton or Buckland in the busy streets of Taunton or Bridgwater, and to hear the devout blessing and kindly greeting that ever, as we may well be sure, accompanied their steps.

* Reg. Rad. ff. cccIxxxxvijb, cccIxxxxviij, cccIxxxxviijb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, pp. 243, 244.

On the 18th of June in the following year, 1352, at Wyvelescombe, the Bishop admitted Robert de Charenchowes, Priest, to the Vicarage of Canyngton, on the presentation of the Prioress and Convent.* The Archdeacon of Taunton was ordered to induct him.

Shortly after this the House received one of its most valuable accessions of property. On the 24th of January, 1353-4, John de Chidiok and Robert de Sambourn were empowered by writ of privy seal to give and assign twelve pence of rent with appurtenances in Whytherigg, in the county of Devon, and the advowson of the Church of the same vill, not held of the King in chief, to the Prioress and Convent of Canyngton, to be held by the said Prioress and Convent and their successors for ever. Also similar licence was conveyed to the Prioress and Convent to receive the rent and advowson aforesaid, and to appropriate the Church and rent aforesaid to their own proper use. The writ was dated, witness the King, at the Tower of London, on the day and year above mentioned.† This was confirmed by writs of inspeximus, on the payment of half a marc, by Richard the Second, at Westminster, on the 5th of March, 1379-80;‡ and by Henry the Sixth, also on the payment of half a marc, at Westminster, on the 16th of October, 1426.‖

On the 26th of March, 1354, the Bishop granted permission to Isolda, the wife of John Byccomb, to sojourn in the Priory until the Gule of August, an ancient name for the first day of that month.§

* Reg. Rad. f. cccevij. MS. Harl. 6965, p. 248.
† Pat. 27 Edw. iij. p. 3. m. 1. Appendix, No. v.
‡ Pat. 3 Ric. ij. p. 2. m. 15.
‖ Pat. 5 Hen. vj. p. 1. m. 21. § Reg. Rad. f. ccccxxxjb.

On the 10th of February, 1362-3, Henry de Lutton was presented by the Prioress and Convent to their lately acquired Church of Wytherigge, in the Diocese of Exeter, by exchange with Robert Crosse for the Church of Spaxton, in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The Dean of Molton and the Rector of Estansty, the Bishop of Exeter's officers entrusted with an investigation of the case, reported, in answer to a commission dated at Chuddeleigh, the 16th of January, 1362-3,* that the aforesaid Church of Wytherigge was of the patronage of the Nuns of Canyngton, and was of the estimated value of twenty pounds ; that the cause of exchange on the part of the said Henry, as publicly reported, was that adjacent to the Church of Spaxton a great lord, James de Audelegh, spent the greater part of his time ; that the said Henry had a just action at law against the said James, which he dared not pursue so long as he continued in the neighbourhood, by reason of the deadly hatred which the said James bore against him. The cause of exchange on the part of Robert was that the cure of the said Church of Wytherigge was great and onerous, and that the said Robert could not, according to his conscience, attend to its care and government as he ought, by reason of his manifold duties in attendance on the lord Bishop, and his frequent absence resulting thencefrom. This return was dated at Wytherigge, on the 23rd of January, 1362-3.† On the receipt of this the Bishop of Bath and Wells returned an to answer his brother at Exeter, approving and confirming the same, dated at Wyvelescombe, on the 25th of January.‡

* Reg. Rad. in Drok. f. cclxxxviijb.
† Reg. Rad. in Drok. f. cclxxxix. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, pp. 156, 157.
‡ Reg. Rad. in Drok f cclxxxix.

On the same day Robert Crosse was presented to the Church of Spaxton, on the presentation of James de Audelegh, lord of Redcastle and Helegh. His change of residence resulted, as we shall subsequently see, in a considerable addition to the revenues of the House.

One of the grievances which the inmates of Monasteries had to endure as best they could, was in the shape of a corrody. This was a sum of money, or an allowance of meat, drink and clothing, granted by the Superior of a religious House, or exacted by the King, towards the maintenance of some servant or other dependant that required to be provided for. It will be recollected that one of the charges against the Prioress, some few years before, was that she had sold several of such allowances without licence, to the injury and damage of her House. We saw also in the case of the Abbey of Athelney, that that community was obliged to petition the King to grant a remission of the burden, to the support of which it was wholly unequal. Canyngton Priory was similarly favoured by the Sovereign, as the series of facts which I now offer to the reader will only too plainly declare.

In pursuance of a writ addressed to William Cheyne, the King's eschaetor, dated at Westminster, the 12th of July, 1370, an inquest was held at Ilmystre, before that officer, on Tuesday next after the feast of S. Margaret, in the forty-fourth year of Edward the Third, or the 23rd of July, 1370, and a verdict returned by the following jurors :—Adam Swyf, William Hucker, William Moure, Richard Cook, William Walround, William Dounham, William Shelf, Robert Hare, Thomas Deme, Laurence Wyly, Robert Dany and Thomas Dusty. These presented that Roger Montfort, deceased, was an

outlaw, and that he held no lands or tenements on the day of the promulgation of his outlawry, or afterwards to his death, of the King in chief, but only a corrody for life by the concession of the Prioress of Canyngton, at Canyngton. The corrody was of the yearly value of forty shillings. They further presented that the Sheriffs of Somerset for the time being were the receivers of the said corrody for the use of the King; and that the said Robert died on the feast of Corpus Christi, in the forty-second year of the King's reign, the 8th of June, 1368, and left no heirs.*

Robert Crosse had been Vicar of Spaxton for between nineteen and twenty years, when he gave his neighbours, the Prioress and Convent, a conspicuous proof of his respect and regard.

A writ was addressed, witness the King, at Westminster, on the 28th of April, 1382, to John Rodeston, the King's eschaetor in Somersetshire, by which he was directed to take the verdict of a jury, whether it would be to the damage or prejudice of the King or others, if licence should be given to Robert Crosse, Parson of the Church of Spaxton, to give and assign six messuages, one hundred and nine acres of arable land, and eight acres of meadow, with appurtenances, in Poulet, to the Prioress and Convent, for her and her successors to find two sufficient and good wax candles, "duos cereos vocatos Torches," one at the right and one at the left corner of the High Altar in the Priory Church, to burn through and from the time of the Consecration of the Elements daily and every day at Mass, in honour of the same, to the conclusion of the Service. The inquisition consequent upon this was taken before the

* Inq. p. m. 44 Edw. iii. n. 45. Appendix, No. vi.

said John Rodeston, at Bryggewater, on the Thursday in Whitsun week, in the fifth year of the aforesaid King, which is coincident with the 29th of May, 1382; and the jurors—Ralph Barwe, John Poterne, Stephen Pyllet, Thomas Bouchre, William Smyth, Robert Pottere, Richard Stenyng, William Portere, John Bonons, John Ffrenssh, William Athelard, and William Parys—returned a favourable verdict. They presented that it would not be to the loss of the King or others if the licence as aforesaid should be given; that there was no other mesne lord between the King and the said Robert Crosse but the Master of S. Mark's Hospital at Bristol, of whom it was held by a service of two shillings a year, payable at Midsummer; that the value in all issues was forty-six shillings and four-pence a year, besides all reprises, and no more, inasmuch as the sea flowed daily over the said land; and that the said Robert had, besides the land aforesaid, a carucate of land, with its appurtenances, in Kyngeston by Taunton, which was of the true yearly value in all issues of sixty shillings, and was held of the Bishop of Winchester by a service of twenty shillings a-year.* Licence was accordingly granted, on the payment by the Prioress of twenty marcs, dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 16th of June, 1382.†

It may be interesting to the local reader to be told that the following places are mentioned as situated in Canyngton, in documents dated on the Wednesday after the feast of S. Laurence, in the 13th year of Richard II., or the 9th of February, 1389-90, and on the Thursday next after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy

* Inq. p. m. 5 Ric. ij. n. 81.
† Pat. 5 Ric. ij. p. 2. m. 12. Appendix. No. VII.

Cross, in the 18th year of the same monarch, or the 17th of September, 1394 :—Pachet, Northerferthyng, Southerferthyng, Gotelond, Le Yerd, Crossemore and Pachettesmore.*

On the 20th of July, 1407, John Hert, Priest, was presented to the Vicarage of Canyngton by the Prioress and Convent.† He did not long retain his Benefice, but exchanged it with William Baron, Vicar of Lyme, in the Diocese of Sarum. The commission to investigate was issued on the 13th of September, 1408, and Baron swore canonical obedience as Vicar of Canyngton on the 20th of the same month.†

From this point the Episcopal Registers furnish us with the names of a series of ecclesiastics who were admitted to various degrees of Holy Orders on titles granted by the Prioress and Convent. These notices are of the utmost interest, not only in connexion with the Priory, but to writers of Family Histories, and to ecclesiastical students in general. No apology, therefore, can be needful, for presenting them to the reader in particular detail.

At a General Ordination in the Cathedral Church of Wells, by Bishop Nicholas Bubwith, on Holy Saturday, 1409, William Russell was ordained Sub-deacon.‖ At that in the Parish Church of Banwell, by the same Bishop, on Saturday in Ember week, the 21st of September, 1409, the same William was ordained Deacon ;§ and Priest by the same Bishop, in the Cathedral Church of Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 11th of April, 1411.¶

On the 29th of April, 1411, the Bishop directed letters under his great seal to the Prioress and Convent, contain-

* Hyll Cartulary, pp. 64,65. † Reg. Bowet, f. xliiij.
‡ Reg. Bowet, f. lij. Reg. Bubwith, f. xix.
‖ Reg. Bubwith, ad fin. § Reg. Bubwith, ad fin.
¶ Reg. Bubwith, ad fin.

ing his licence that any Nuns of their House, who should desire to profess, and were of ability so to do, might lawfully be consecrated by any Catholic Bishop, and on any day which should be selected for the solemnity by the said Prioress and Convent.*

In the year following a circumstance occurred which, although the result was favourable, must have caused no little amount of disquietude to the good Prioress and her Sisters. We saw that in the January of 1332-3, a licence was granted to Robert Ffiutz Payn, to give certain lands in Canyngton and Radeweye to the Prioress and Convent for the maintenance of a Chaplain, who should celebrate Divine Service daily in the Church of Canyngton. It appears that either he or some member of his family, for on the question of identity, both of giver and of gift, the subsequent proceedings essentially turned, gave them a similar benefaction in connexion with the Chapels of Pederdam (for so the record uniformly presents the names) and Combewyche, but that the conditions annexed to this latter gift had not been duly attended to. Hereupon the Prioress found herself involved in a legal process for neglect and violation of contract, during which various particulars hitherto unknown to us were elicited. At an inquest, held at Stokvrcy, on Monday, the morrow of the feast of the Holy Trinity, in the thirteenth year of K. Henry IV., or the 30th of May, 1412, before Robert Veele, the King's eschactor in the County of Somerset, it was found that the dominus de Coursy had at some former time given to the Prioress of Canyngton and her successors certain lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, wood, and the tithes of corn, and the rest of the small tithes in Pederdam by Combewyche and in Combewyche,

* Reg .Bubw. f. lj.

to find a fit Chaplain who should celebrate Divine Service for ever, and for the same to pray for the souls of the Kings of England and their successors, to wit, in the Chapel of S. Leonard, at Combewyche, on every other Sunday and on every other double festival throughout the year; and also in the Chapel of S. James, at Pederdam, aforesaid, on every other Sunday and on every other double festival throughout the year. That the aforesaid Prioress had ceased to find such a Chaplain in the Chapel of S. James, at Pederdam, for the five years last past before the taking of the Inquisition. That the lands and tithes aforesaid in Pederdam were of the annual value of four marcs, and in Combewyche of ten marcs. And further that Johanna, the Prioress of Canyngton, had received and appropriated the issues and profits accrueing from them to the day that the Inquisition was taken. The Prioress was accordingly called to account, and the case was heard in Trinity Term, 1414. The Barons of the Court of Exchequer then agreed that the Prioress should be warned by writ of *scire facias* to show cause why she should not account, answer, and do satisfaction to the King out of the issues and profits of the said lands from the time of the cessation of Divine Service to that of the present hearing. After various legal preliminaries, she replied by Richard Hukelegh her attorney, that—inasmuch as in the aforesaid Inquisition no finding was arrived at as to what name the aforesaid Lord de Cursy bore, nor what lands or tithes were given to the aforesaid predecessor of the Prioress and her successors, nor that the lands and tithes aforesaid were given before or after the passing of the Statute of Mortmain, nor that the then King nor any of his progenitors were the founders of the Church or Priory of Canyngton,

nor that the then King nor any of his progenitors had given the aforesaid lands and tithes or any other to the aforesaid Prioress or any of her predecessors—she sought a cessation of the action and a release in respect of the issues specified. The Judges ruled in her favour, and decided that the Inquisition was not sufficient in law for putting the Prioress on her answer, or for delivery of seisin of the aforesaid lands and tithes into the King's hand, or for burdening the Prioress in respect of their issues. Judgment was accordingly given for the defendant, by reason of the insufficiencies of the Inquisition aforesaid.*

I presume that in the Prioress Johanna of the year 1412 we have an addition to our series of hitherto known Superiors. For although the name of Johanna was borne by the next in our list, that lady did not die until 1440; and the interval would seem far too long for us to refer both of the events to one and the same person.

In the year 1414, the Vicarage of Canyngton was valued at eight marcs.†

It will not be amiss to record, as illustrative of the neighbourhood, although the fact has no immediate connexion with the Religious House on the history of which we are now employed, that William Poulet de Bere, Esq., built a Chapel at Ichestok, to the honour of the Blessed Virgin, adjoining to the north side of an older Chapel, and that a writ was received by the eschaetor, with the usual enquiries in respect of his founding in the same a Chantry for one fit Chaplain, who should daily celebrate Divine Service in behalf of the founder during his life, and for his soul after his decease, and for those of his ancestors, and his heirs,

* Memorand. in Scacc. 1 Hen. v. m. xiiij. Appendix, No. VIII.
† Reg. Bubw. f. lxxxxb.

and all the faithful departed. This writ was dated at Westminster, the 14th of July, 1415. The proposed endowment consisted of three messuages, one hundred acres and half an acre of arable, sixteen and a-half acres of meadow, three acres of pasture, one penny of rent, and five acres of wood, with their appurtenances, in Ediston, Stokecursy, Pederham by Combewych, Seternemede, Ichestoke, and Canyngton. An inquest was held at Bruggewater, on Monday, the feast of S. Calixtus, Pope, in the third year of the reign of Henry V., or the 14th of October, 1414, before Matthew Coker, the eschaetor, and a favourable verdict was returned.* The Bishop's licence for this foundation was not granted, as it would appear, until the year 1427, when a document of that kind is inserted in the Register, dated at Woky, the 24th of April.† The same Register records the presentation thereto by Willliam Paulet de Bere, the patron, of Thomas Spreth, on the 28th of June, 1427,‡ and of Henry Yurde, on the 18th of October, 1430.‖

On the 25th of August, 1417, William Clyve, Priest, was presented by the Prioress and Convent to the Vicarage of Canyngton, void by the death of William Baron.§

On the 20th of the following October, Bishop Bubwith granted his licence to William Kenne, for one year, to have masses celebrated "voce submissa" by a fit and proper Chaplain, in an oratory situated in his Court House, at Canyngton, so far as might be without prejudice to the parish Church of the same.¶

Notwithstanding the benefactions which have been detailed, the Convent was far from affluent. A special

* Inq. ad q. d. 3 Hen. v. n. 8.
† Reg. Stafford, ff. xxixb—xxxij.
‡ Reg. Staff. f. xxxij.
‖ Reg. Staff. f. lviij.
§ Reg. Bubw. f. cxxxijb.
¶ Reg. Bubw. f. cxxxiiijb.

instance of this now comes before us, and will be followed by several of a similar kind, in its exemption from the payment of the King's disme. In answer to a brief for making this collection, dated at Westminster, the 22nd of December, 1417, the Nuns of Canyngton, Barowe, and Ivelchester, are specially and by name excepted.*

In answer to a similar commission, dated the 20th of September, 1421, the Priory of Canyngton was again specially exempt, and with it those of Barogh and Staverdale, and the Hospitals of Bristol and Wells.†

Again the Prioress and Sisters granted titles for Holy Orders. At an ordination in the Church of S. Cuthbert, Wells, by Richard, Bishop of Kato, Suffragan, on Saturday in Ember week, the 7th of June, 1421, John Exbrigge, of the diocese of Exeter, was ordained Sub-deacon ; and in the same Church, and by the same Bishop, was admitted to the Order of Deacon, on the 7th of March, 1421-2.‡

In the Chapel of the B.V. Mary by the Cloister of the Cathedral Church of Wells, on the 18th of December, 1423, Robert Wylly was ordained Sub-deacon by the same Bishop; and Deacon by the same and in the same place, on the Saturday "quo cantatur Officium *Sicientes*," the 8th of April, 1424.‡

John Hody was presented to the Rectory of Wytheridge by the Prioress and Convent, on the 16th of September, 1425.‖

At this period a painfully interesting notice of the state of the place is furnished by the return to an enquiry by K. Henry VI., dated at Westminster, on the 16th October, in the fourth year of his reign, 1425, concerning lands

* Reg. Bubw. f. cxxxviijb.
† Reg. Bubw. f. clxxxvjb.
‡ Reg. Bubw. ad fin.
‖ Eccl. Antiq. Dev. i. 191.

which were injured by war or the incursion of the sea, and were consequently exempt from the payment of the King's tenths. The Church of Canyngton is there said to be appropriated to the Prioress and Convent, and not taxed nor accustomed to pay the tenth; that in this Church there was a Vicarage endowed but not taxed ; and that within the parish there was some time back a manor, together with certain tenements in Pedyrham, belonging to the same Prioress and Nuns, but that both the manor and the tenements aforesaid were destroyed by inundations of the sea.*

At an Ordination in the Church of S. Cuthbert, Wells, by Richard, Bp. of Kato, on the Saturday in Ember Week, the 16th of March, 1425-6, Walter Hogges was ordained Sub-deacon, on the title of the Prioress and Convent.† The same was ordained Deacon by the same Bishop in the Conventual Church of Bruton, on Ember Saturday, the 25th of the following May; ‡ and Priest by the same Bishop in the parish Church of Yevell, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of September.‖ He was subsequently presented to the Vicarage of Wytheridge.

In an estimate of the annual value of the non-taxed benefices of the diocese, dated at Wells in the same year, the Vicarage of Canyngton is stated to be worth four pounds, or six marcs.§

Richard Hyndeborgh was admitted by Richard, Bp. of Kato, to the Holy Order of Priest, in the Conventual Church of the Preaching Friars of Yevelchester, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of December, 1427.‖

* Reg. Bubw. ff. cxxviij, cxxviijb.
† Reg. Staff. f. vj, ‡ Reg. Staff. f. vijb.
‖ Reg. Staff. ad fin. § Reg. Staff. f. ix

Richard Morlegh was ordained Sub-deacon by the Bp. of Bath and Wells, in his Chapel at Woky, on Holy Saturday, the 19th of April, 1427;* and Priest by Richard, Bp. of Kato, in the Conventual Church of the Preaching Friars of Yevelchester, on Ember Saturday, the 29th of May, 1428,* on the title of the Prioress and Convent.

The learned author of the "*Ecclesiastical Antiquities in Devon*" informs us that at this time the Priory came into possession of the Church of Wytheridge. He says that in consequence of Pope Martin V.'s recommendation (2 Id. May, 10th Pont.) Bp. Lacy, on the 5th of July, 1427, agreed to appropriate the Church of Wytheridge, on the demise of Philip, the then Rector, to Canyngton Priory, whose possessions in Somersetshire had suffered greatly "propter ipsius maris fluxus et refluxus et alios diversos casus," but that the Convent was charged to remit 30s. yearly at Easter, to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, for the advantage of the Cathedral Choristers, and at the same time to distribute 6s. 8d. among the poorest parishioners: that the Convent came into possession on the 5th of June, 1428, but, neglecting to comply with the conditions, Bp. Lacy, on the 31st October, 1454, decreed the sequestration of the Rectory: that the money was soon paid, and that the Prioress was hereupon the invariable patron until the suppression.† The Convent however, was certainly in possession of the Rectory, as we have already seen, at least sixty years before this period.

Later in the year 1428, Canyngton had a new Vicar in

* Reg. Staff. ad fin.
† Oliver, Eccl. Antiq. of Devon, j. 189.

the person of John Grene, Chaplain, who was admitted on the presentation of the Prioress and Convent on the 5th of October.*

Walter Hogges was presented to the Rectory of Wytheridge, on the resignation of Philip Lovecock, or Polton, on the 16th of March, 1429.†

John Wolmere was ordained Sub-deacon, by Richard, Bp. of Kato, in the parish Church of Yevell, on Ember Saturday, the 24th of February, 1430-1 ; Deacon by the same Bp. in S. Cuthbert's, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 26th of the following May ; and Priest on the following Ember Saturday in the Conventual Church of Bruton.‡ He was afterwards Vicar of Wytheridge.

Walter Hogges did not long remain at Wytheridge. Thomas Bowryng occurs as Vicar in 1431, and on the 3rd of October in that year, exchanged his benefice for the Chantry of Walton Glanvile, in the Diocese of Salisbury, with Robert Gaunt.†

By a mandate, dated at Dogmersfeld, the last day of December, 1432, a subsidy of two-pence in the pound was ordered to be levied on all ecclesiastical benefices, for the counsel of Basle. As the Priory is omitted from the list of the exempt, we are led to hope that its affairs were in an improving condition. At the same time the Vicarage was estimated at ten marcs, which also is a satisfactory contrast to the six marcs of the valuation last before us.‖

The improvement, however, if real, was not of long duration, for "the poor Nuns of Canyngton" are again placed among the exempt from payment of the King's disme in the Bishop's certificates, dated at Dogmersfeld, on the 20th

* Reg. Staff. f. xliij.
† Eccl. Antiq. Dev. I. 191.
‡ Reg. Staff. ad fin.
‖ Reg. Staff. ff. lxxxiij, lxxxiiij.

of April, 1435.* A similar return was made from his Inn in London, on the 6th of February, 1437;† and from the same place, on the 2nd of May, 1440.‡

Shortly before the last mentioned date, Prioress Johanna de Chedeldon was gathered to her predecessors. Bishop Stafford issued a commission to John Bernard, Succentor, and John Stevenes, his Commissary General, Canons of Wells; and, as licence had been obtained by the Sisters from Robert, dominus de Ponyngges, the patron, to elect a successor to the deceased Prioress, and the Sisters had unanimously chosen Johanna Gofyse to the vacant office, and had pleaded their deep poverty in mitigation of expences connected with the election, empowered them to hear and examine witnesses, and if they should find the said election to be canonical and the elect fit, to install and induct her into corporal possession, all things being done according to the rule and custom of the place. They were, further, to send him a faithful account of their proceedings within the next twenty days after confirmation. The commission was dated at his Inn in London, on the 14th of April, 1440.‖

Walter Haysshford, or Ayssheforde, was ordained Subdeacon on the title of the Prioress and Convent by John, Bishop of Olena, in the Temple Church, Bristol, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of May, 1440;§ and Deacon by the same Bishop in the parish Church of Axbrugge, on Ember Saturday, the 24th of the following September.§ We shall meet with him afterwards as Vicar of Canyngton.

In 1445, a subsidy was demanded of the Clergy in aid of the King against the Saracens and Turks, when the

* Reg. Staff. ff. cxjb, cxij. † Reg. Staff. f. cxlj.
‡ Reg. Staff. f. cxlvijb.
‖ Reg. Staff. ff. clxv., clxvb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 54.
§ Reg. Staff. ad fin.

Vicarage of Canyngton was again valued at eight marcs, and the Vicar paid eight pence as his share of the aid.*

On the death of Robert Gaunt, Vicar of Wytherigge, John Wolmere succeeded him on the 4th of June, 1448.†

In a list of the Priests in the Archdeaconry of Taunton, and Deanery of Bruggewater, dated at Taunton, the 20th of January, 1449-50, Thomas Hidam and Walter Haychessford occur as "capellani annuellarii" of Canyngton.‡

On the 26th of September in the same year, 1450, a certificate, dated at Woky, again declared "the House of the poor Nuns of Canyngton" to be exempt from payment of the King's tenths, "propter exilitatem," on account of the lean state of its finances.‖

The Vicarage was shortly afterwards vacant, by the death of John Grene. Prioress Johanna and Convent presented Walter Aysshford, Chaplain, of the Order of S. Benedict, to the benefice, who was admitted at Bagshot, in the diocese of Winchester, on the 18th of February, 1451-2.§

John Wolmere resigned the Vicarage of Wytheridge, and the Prioress and Convent presented William Clyff to the benefice on the 16th of July, 1451.†

Once more there was a certificate of exemption in favour of the Sisters. It was dated from the Palace at Wells, the 1st of October, 1453.¶

On the 23rd of February, 1459-60, at Banwell, Bishop Bekynton granted his licence to Leonard Tylly, Esq., of the parish of Canyngton, and Johanna his wife, to have Divine Service celebrated in his Chapel at Withel, in the said parish, but without prejudice to the parish Church.**

* Reg. Bekynton, f. xxixb. † Eccl. Antiq. Devon, I. 191.
‡ Reg. Bek. f. cvb. ‖ Reg. Bek. ff. cxvijb, cxviij.
§ Reg. Bek. f. cxxxviij. ¶ Reg. Bek. f. clxvb.
** Reg. Bek. f. cclij.

Stephen Beyden, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte, on the title of the Prioress and Convent, by John, Bishop of Tino, at S. Cuthbert's, Wells, on the 7th of June, 1460.*

In the course of the same year, Alianor Hille, of Canyngton, departed this life, and left behind her a very interesting will, dated the 14th of October, 1458, and written on paper by her own hand. The lady was possessed of considerable property, and was evidently on the most intimate terms with the good Sisters of the Priory, whom, as it will be seen, she specially remembers. It breathes in every line of the goodness of the writer's heart, and makes me feel that I shall best consult the pleasure of my reader by giving it to him in full. It is as follows :—

"In the Name of JHV. I Alianor Hulle beyng by the mercy of God in my good mynde write this p'sent testament with myne owne hande the whiche I desire and wil that it be kept and p'fourmed w'out a later wil be maad of me. Ffirst and moost specially I betake my soule to the swete mercy of our Lord Jhu Crist besechyng hym as he made hit by his infinite goodnes and bought hit with the most dere price of his precious blode that he graunt hit a place among the nombr of his chosen people in the blisse of hevyn. Also I bequethe my wrecched body to be beried with in the quere of the Monchyns of Canyngton. Also I bequethe to ye same Monchens J peyr of Chaundelers of silver. A crosse of silver and a censer of syluer And the appayrell of the auter of white damaske. And a chesiple such as they wol desir of iij. Also I wol that my fader Husewyfe haue al my good that I haue at Canyngton that is not specially bequethed in this testament

* Reg. Bek. ad fin.

to his owne vse and to departe ther of to my seru^a^ntes at his owne wille. And I desire that assone as it may goodly be done that I may haue a m^l^ masses songyn after the departyng of my wrecched soule. And also I wil that the pour folkis that haue any wokely comfort of me that they haue hit whiles they lyve payed by the hand*es* of myn Executours. Also I wil that the co̅mune beddyng that longeth to myn houshold be departed among goddis pour creaturis that is to seye yeman bedd*es* bothe matras blanket*es* and shet*es*. Also I bequethe my mantel my cloke al my gounes and furres to pour Religious that haue nede. And that the almes of my lytel pursis be continued as long as is lefte eny good that is to seye vij^d^ in worship of seynt Kateryn and vij^d^ to pour folk*es*. Also I bequethe to my fader Housewyf my greet porcons and my litel porcons and my greet sauter. Also I bequethe my fader Husewyf my greet cuppe Edward. Also I bequethe my father Husewyf my blue byble of latyn. And also I bequethe to Sir John Fforstesku the best gylt cuppe that I have & to Richard Walshawe a potte of sylver. And for to fulfille my wille I make myn Executours S^r^ John Ffortesku S^r^ Roger Husewyf and Richard Walshawe. Wreten the xiiij day of Octobr the yer of the Kyng Harry y^e^ vj^te^ xxxvij^ti^."

On the 2nd of January, 1460-1, Richard Walshawe, gentleman, one of the aforenamed Executors, appeared before Bishop Bekynton in the Chapel of the Palace at Wells, and exhibited the will. On the same day the Bishop from the same place issued a commission to John Saunders, Rector of Enmer, and Walter de Hashford, Vicar of Canyngton, to receive the oath of Roger Huswyf, Chaplain, one of the Executors, of faithful administration. Administration was granted to the said Roger, after oath by him

to Walter Hayssheford, the Bp's Commissary, in the Church of Canyngton, on the 27th of the same month.*

On the 9th of August, 1461, at Westminster, King Edward IV. in demanding his tenth alleges the great "burdens and charges that resten upon us, and daily must for the common weel," and orders the collectors "that ye certifie noon excepcions saue oonly suche as of verraye necessite and pitee most and oweth to be certified." The urgency of this appeal resulted in the Bp's omission of the Sisters of Canyngton from his certificate of exemption, although he includes "the poor Nuns of Barowe."† The same occurs in a certificate dated in the Palace at Wells, the 11th of January, 1462-3 ;‡ but the Sisters have their usual exemption in one dated at the same place, on the 9th of January, 1463-4.‖

At an Ordination in the Chapel of the B. V. M. by the cloister of the Cathedral Church of Wells, by John, Bp. of Tino, on Ember Saturday, the 13th of March, 1461-2, John Edyngton, of Glastonbury, was ordained Sub-deacon, on the title of the Prioress and Convent.§ The same John was ordained Deacon, by the same Bp. and in the same Chapel, on Ember Saturday, the 3rd of April, 1462 ;§ and Priest in the same place on Ember Saturday, the 18th of the following September.§

At an Ordination, by John, Bp. of Tino, in the conventual Church of Mochelneye, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of September, 1466, Thomas Aleyn, of Merk, was ordained Priest, on the title of the Prioress and Convent.¶

In the Conventual Church of S. John the Baptist, at

* Reg. Bek. ff. cclxb, cclxj.
‡ Reg. Beb. f. cclxxxj.
§ Reg. Bek. ad fin.
† Reg. Bek. ff. cclxvijb, cclxviijb.
‖ Reg. Bek. f. cclxxxxviijb.
¶ Reg. Stillington, ad fin.

Wells, by the same Bishop, on the 14th of March, 1466-7, John Westlegh, of Canyngton, was ordained Sub-deacon, on the title of the same;* Deacon by the same in the Lady-Chapel by the cloister of the Cathedral Church, on Holy Saturday, the 28th of March, 1466-7; and Priest by the same, in the parish Church of S. Mary Magdalene, Taunton, on the 19th of September, 1467.*

The Nuns were again exempted from the payment of the King's tenths by a certificate of the Bishop, dated at his Inn, outside Temple Bar, the 10th of November, 1468.† The exemption was repeated by certificates dated at the same place, on the 3rd of August, 1472,‡ and on the 21st of April, 1475.‖

In the Lady-Chapel in the cloister, at Wells, by John Bishop of Tino, John Smyth, of Evercriche, and John Lugwardyn, of Taunton, were ordained Sub-deacons, on Ember Saturday, the 23rd of December, 1469.*

In the same place, and by the same Bishop, on Ember Saturday, the 17th of March, 1469-70, John Smyth and John Lugwardyn were ordained Deacons, and John Nitherton, of Brugwater, Sub-deacon.* John Nitherton, was ordained by the same Bishop, Deacon, in the Conventual Church of Bruton, on Ember Saturday, the 7th of April, 1470; and Priest, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 21st of the same month.*

In the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on the vigil of the Holy Trinity, the 16th of June, 1470, by the same Bishop, John Smyth was ordained Priest;* and John Lugwardyn was admitted to the same Order in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember

* Reg. Stillington, ad fin.
† Reg. Still. f. xxb.
‡ Reg. Still. f. lxxxiijb.
‖ Reg. Still. f. xcvij.

Saturday, the 22nd of September, 1470.* He was afterwards Vicar of Canyngton and Succentor of Wells.

In the same Church, and by the same Bishop, John Cumsyn, of Stokcursy, was ordained Acolyte, on Ember Saturday, the 9th of March, 1470-1 ; on the last day but one of the same month he was ordained Sub-deacon in the Chapel of S. Thomas by Bristol Bridge ;* Deacon in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 13th of April, 1471 ;* and Priest in the same Church, on the 21st of the following September.*

Walter Hayssheford, Vicar of Canyngton, died in 1472, and, on the 25th of September in that year, Thomas Braunche, Chaplain, succeeded on the presentation of the Prioress and Convent. The Archdeacon of Taunton was ordered to induct.†

William Clyff, Vicar of Wytheridge, died in 1474, and John Wynd succeeded, on the presentation of the Prioress and Convent, on the 17th of June in that year.‡

At an Ordination, by John, Bp. of Tino, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 17th of December, 1474, William at Water, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte.*

In the same Church, and by the same Bishop, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of September, 1476, John Gerard, of Taunton, was ordained Sub-deacon.* He was ordained Deacon at the same place, and by the same Bishop, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of the following December.*

At the same time and place, Thomas Teesdale, of Canyngton, was ordained Sub-deacon ;* Deacon on Ember Saturday, the 1st of March, 1476-7 ;* and Priest on Holy Saturday, the 5th of the following month.*

* Reg. Stillington, ad fin. † Reg. Still. f. xxxvj.
‡ Eccl. Antiq. Devon, I. 191.

John Wynd resigned the Vicarage of Wytheridge, and Richard Facy succeeded on the 15th of March, 1476.*

In the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 19th of December, 1478, William Ben, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte.†

At the same place, on Ember Saturday, the 6th of March, 1478-9, Henry Rayn, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte.†

On Ember Saturday, the 18th of the following December, in the same Church, Walter Ffonten, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte, by John, Bishop of Ross.(?)†

On Ember Saturday, the 25th of February, 1479-80, in the Chapel of Blessed Mary of Redclyf, by Bristol, William Vphyl, of West Pennard, was ordained Sub-deacon, by the same Bishop;† Deacon by the same, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 18th of March;† and Priest in the same Church, on the Eve of the Holy Trinity, the 27th of May, in the same year.†

William Lewys, of the Diocese of Llandaff, was ordained Sub-deacon, by the same Bishop, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 17th of March, 1480-1;† Deacon, on Holy Saturday, the 21st of April, 1481;† and Priest, on Ember Saturday, the 22nd of the following September.†

In the Lady-Chapel in the Cathedral Church of Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 18th of December, 1484, John Algar, of Canyngton, was ordained Sub-deacon by Thomas Barett, Bp. of Guachdun.(?)†

The House during all this time did not improve in affluence, and the Nuns were again specially exempted from

* Eccl. Antiq. Devon, I. 191. † Reg. Still. ad fin.

payment of the Kings tenths, by certificates of the Bishop, dated at Wells, the 2nd of June, 1485,* and the 7th of May, 1487.†

William Eston, of Est Pennarde, and John Holcomb, of Cleve, were ordained Sub-deacons in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of May, 1486;‡ Deacons, at the same place, (together with John Raybon, of Cumb S. Nicholas, who was ordained Sub-deacon) on Ember Saturday, the 23rd of September;‡ and Priests, on Ember Saturday, the 23rd of December, in the same year.*

On the same day, Henry Meryk, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte.‡

Henry Meryk was ordained Sub-deacon, and John Raybon Deacon, at the same place, on Ember Saturday, the 10th of March, 1486-7;‡ and the former was admitted to the Order of Deacon, in the Chapel of Blessed Mary of Radclyf, by Bristol, on Ember Saturday, the 31st of March, 1487, by the same Bishop.‡

In the Conventual Church of Taunton Priory, on Saturday, the 22nd of February, 1487-8, Henry Merik and John Raybone, were ordained Priests, by Thomas, Bp. of Tino. On this occasion upwards of one hundred persons were admitted to various Orders.‡

In the Conventual Church of Brewton Priory, by the same Bishop, John Birche was ordained Sub-deacon, on Ember Saturday, the 22nd of March, 1487-8;‡ Deacon, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 5th of the following April;‡ and Priest, on the Eve of the Holy Trinity, the 13th of June, 1489, in in the parish Church of Axbrige.‡

* Reg. Still. f. cxxvijb. † Reg. Still. f. cxlb.
‡ Reg. Still. ad fin.

William Perett was ordained Sub-deacon in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of December, 1488;* and Priest, in the same Church, on the 4th of April, 1489.*

Soon after this, at the latest, Elianor was Prioress of Canyngton. We are indebted for our knowledge of the fact to the Register of the appointment of a new vicar. John Lugwardyn resigned in 1499, and on the 8th of November, in that year, John Bekham, L.L.B., was presented by Elianor, the Prioress, and Convent, to the vacant benefice.†

Thomas Pederame, of the diocese of Bath and Wells, was ordained Sub-deacon, and John Barrey, of the diocese of London, by letters dimissory, was ordained Deacon in the Lady Chapel, at Wells, by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, on Holy Saturday, the 30th of March, 1499.‡ Thomas Pederham was ordained Deacon, and John Barrey Priest, by the same Bishop, in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister, at Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of September, in the same year.‡ And the former was admitted to the Order of Priest, by the same Bishop and in the same place, on Ember Saturday, the 4th of April, 1500.‡

John Abbot was ordained Sub-deacon by the same Bishop, in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister, at Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 6th of March, 1500-1,‡ and Priest, in the parish Church of S. Cuthbert, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 18th of September in that year.‡

A record of a far different character now claims our notice. Robert Hyll, late of the parish of Canyngton, "tayllour," was charged before the King's Justices, for

* Reg. Still. ad fin.
† Reg. King, f. lij. MS. Harl. 6966, p. 157.
‡ Reg. King, ad fin.

that he, on the 20th of November, 1496, did "vi et armis viz. baculo et gladio," break into and enter the house of John Puryman, at Canyngton, and did take and carry away from thence four shillings in money, three yards of black linen cloth worth 6s. 8d., three yards of linen cloth worth 8s., and one gown of murrey worth 16s. After a lengthy investigation before John Pykman, Archdeacon of Bath, and John Lugwardyn, Succentor of Wells, he was pronounced by a jury not guilty, and was declared to be restored to his former estate and good name. The Bishop's mandate to the Dean of Briggewater, the Curate of Canyngton, and John Bartilmewe, Apparitor, for the proclamation of the purgation of the said Robert, to be made in the parish Church of Canyngton, and in the cathedral Church and the public market-place of Wells, was dated at Dogmersffeld, on the 12th of October, 1501.*

Elianor was still Prioress of Canyngton in 1502, for she and her Convent presented Thomas Davy, Priest, to the Vicarage, void by the resignation of John Bikkom, on the 23rd of August in that year. The mandate to the Archdeacon of Taunton to induct was dated at Athelney, on the day already mentioned.†

The Vicar died shortly after, for Thomas Tremayne, A.M., was presented to the benefice, void by his decease, on the 9th of February, 1503-4, by Elianor, the Prioress, and Convent.‡ He paid for his institution, through John Bekham, the Bishop's Commissary, the sum of 6s. 8d.‖

At an Ordination in the parish Church of S. Mary Magdalene, Taunton, by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, on Ember

* Reg. King, ff. lxxiij,—lxxiiijb.
† Reg. King, f. xcvj. MS. Harl. 6966, p. 164.
‡ Reg. King, vac. f. iiij. Reg. Warham, Abp. Cant. f. cxcvjb.
‖ Reg. Warham, f. ccijb.

Saturday, the 23rd of March, 1503-4, John Hore was admitted to the Order of Sub-deacon.*

Prioress Elianor must have been numbered with her predecessors early in 1503-4, for Cecilia Verney was confirmed in her office of Prioress on the 30th of March, 1504. Her election was exhibited in the Chapter-house at Canyngton, by Master John Standerwyke, her procurator, and the ceremony of confirmation in her office was performed by Master John Beckham, L.L.B. The Archdeacon of Taunton, or his official, was ordered to induct.† This occurred, as will be seen by the reference, during a vacancy in the See of Bath and Wells. In this lady the House received its last Superior, as we shall presently have to notice in greater detail.

William Pavle was ordained Priest by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, in the Lady Chapel by the Cloister, at Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 6th of April, 1504.‡

Edmund Stybe was ordained Sub-deacon by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister, at Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of December, 1505 ;‖ Deacon in the same place on the 28th of March, 1506 ;‖ and Priest on Holy Saturday, or Easter Eve, the 11th of the following April.‖

In the conventual Church of Bruton, by the same Bishop, John Boldey was ordained Sub-deacon on Ember Saturday, the 19th of September, 1506;‖ Deacon, in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister at Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 19th of the following December,‖ and Priest, in the same place, on the 27th of February, 1506-7.‖

* Reg. Warham, f. ccjb.
† Reg. Warham, Abp. Cant., f. ccj.
‡ Reg. Warham, f. ccij.
‖ Reg. Hadr. ad fin.

John Gade was ordained Sub-deacon, by the same Bishop, on the 19th of December, 1506;* Deacon, on the 27th of February, 1506-7;* and Priest in the same place, on Ember Saturday, the 18th of September, 1507.*

This was the last ecclesiastic (so far as I can find) that was admitted to Holy Orders on the title of the Prioress and Convent. There may, of course, have been a few others so ordained at different times to supply their chaplaincies, but the record of the fact is unknown to me.

Thomas Tremayne was admitted to the Vicarage of Wytherigge on the 15th of February, 1517; and, at his death, George Vernev, not improbably a relative of the Prioress, succeeded on the 23rd of September, 1521.†

I can also supply two more Vicars of Canyngton, while the right of presentation was yet in the Convent's hands.

On the 3rd of February, 1522-3, Richard Adams, Priest, was presented to the Vicarage, and the Archdeacon of Taunton ordered to induct.‖

And, on the resignation of Adams, Cecilia, the Prioress, and Convent presented John Bonde, Chaplain, on the 19th of December, 1532.§

The reader will perceive that we have now arrived at the evil days when Canyngton Priory and its Sister Institutions were about to give place to another and very different order of things. Before I present him, however, with the facts of the melancholy story, there are a few matters which will more naturally occupy our attention while the picture of the House in the ordinary circumstances of its existence is still before us, though on the very eve of the tempest which changed all to ruin, than when that

* Reg. Hadr. ad fin. † Eccl. Antiq. Dev., I. 191.
‖ Reg. Wolsey, f. xxj., MS. Harl. 6967, p. 31b.
§ Reg. Clerke, f. 49b. MS. Harl. 6967, p. 45b.

tempest had descended, and sacrilegious hands had obliterated what had hitherto been so fair.

My previous pages will have given to the student of Monastic History many and minute details of some of the most interesting episodes of conventual life. The wise and careful oversight exercised by the Ordinary towards these communities, so truthfully exemplified in the earlier Registers of the Bishops of Bath and Wells,* the formalities consequent on the election of a Superior, both at times when such election was completed without recourse to the extraordinary interference of the diocesan, and also when there was an unhappy necessity for his more special intervention, the rare occurrence of a Visitation for the proof and punishment of delinquencies, and the exercise of the various rights of the Sisters as patrons and landowners, all and each have received abundant illustration from the foregoing narrative. I desire, however, briefly to engage the reader's attention on a subject of considerable interest, about which less is known to the generality of students than the importance of it deserves,—the daily life of these Sisterhoods in the ages of mediæval England.

It will not have escaped his notice that Canyngton Priory was not only the home of the professed Sisters of the House, but that others of at least gentle birth not unfrequently enjoyed a sojourn within its walls. This fact exhibits the present and similar communities, for it was by no means confined to this particular locality, under an aspect very different from that which has ordinarily obtained. A Sisterhood in mediæval ages was not so much

* As some proof of the unwearied diligence of mediæval episcopal government, I may inform the reader that the Registers of Bps. John de Drokenesford and Ralph de Salopia consist of just fifteen hundred folio pages of small and much abbreviated writing, on diocesan matters of every imaginable kind.

a community rigidly excluded from the world, as one living in and leavening the world that lay around. It was a home of peace, of purity, and of refinement, where Woman could best carry out the instincts of her holier nature, and elevate the general character of her sex. Among the Sisters themselves there were constantly members of the highest and noblest families ; and their society, even apart from its religious elevation, was such as to command unfeigned and universal respect. Nor was there in the Cloister that dreary life of forced asceticism with which modern days have ever loved to associate it. The frequent presence of well-born guests, and the kindly intercourse maintained with the neighbourhood, combined with the hearty free-will, and in most cases deliberate choice of the life itself, united not only to endear the existence to those who took its vows upon them, but constantly to attract strangers to its fellowship. In the neighbourhood of such a Sisterhood the Nuns were well and affectionately known. They were the teachers of the female part of the population, and their presence in the houses of their pupils was by no means unusual. We noticed at an earlier page the confinement of a delinquent Nun to the precincts of her House, in punishment of past immorality and for the prevention of further scandal. This shows us the ordinary and usual latitude which conventual rule allowed. Examples of express permission to visit the neighbourhood are frequent. One occurs to me in connexion with an adjoining diocese. Bishop Stapeldon, in January, 1320, sent a pastoral letter to the Prioress and Convent of Polslo, near Exeter, in which are given sundry regulations for the better government of the House. Among others are the following :—That any religious who had leave to visit her friends in a certain place was not to go to any other without express per-

mission: that any Nun who should take refreshment in Exeter, or elsewhere, should return the same day, or the day following at the very furthest, together with her companion, and that the Chaplain, or some esquire of good name and fame, should be appointed by the Prioress as their escort: that, while in Exeter, they were not to wander from house to house, to the dishonour of their estate and religious profession: that, should the family or friends whom the Nun was to visit reside at a greater distance, the duration of absence was to be regulated by the circumstances of the case and the command of the Prioress; and that, in the event of any disobedience to this rule, the punishment should follow of enclosure for two years within the outer gate of the Priory.* Bishop Grandisson gave a similar injunction in 1329 to Margaret Aunger, Abbess of Canon's Leigh, that no Religious should go from her House to a distance from which she could not return on the same day. Another instance will be found in the History of Mynchyn Barrow, in this Volume (page 9). The monitions contained in these pastoral letters are conclusive of the fact that the rigid enclosure of Nuns was altogether unknown. The Sisters were indeed not of the world, but they were in it, actively and intelligently to do a good work to it,—to elevate, to console, to purify, and to bless.

It is abundantly evident that the Nuns of Canyngton were on excellent terms with their wealthy neighbours. Although poor, theirs was a state of most honourable poverty, which exalted rather than disgraced the possessors. They were not surrounded with the pomp and magnificence of many of their wealthier Sisters, but this detracted nothing from their real usefulness, or from the respect

* Reg. Stapeldon, f. cxlvb.

which they inspired. Their life was of a higher character than any which the mere presence or absence of worldly wealth could elevate or degrade.

One peculiarity of that life must not be overlooked. Their House was not only well known to the neighbouring families, but was doubtless a seminary for their daughters. I have already made some remarks, in the History of Mynchin Buckland, on the education imparted in that and similar establishments, and need only add the fact that the training which a Nunnery furnished was the best that the age afforded. In that living gallery of fourteenth century portraits, the Canterbury Tales of Chaucer, the miller of Trompyngtoun is described as both well-to-do and well married, for

"A wyf he hadde, come of noble kyn;
Sche was i-fostryd in a nonnerye;
For Symkyn wolde no wyf, as he sayde,
But sche were wel i-norissched and a mayde,
To saven his estaat and yomanrye.
Ther durste no wight clepe hir but *madame*,
What for hir kynreed and hir nortelrye,
That sche had lerned in the nonnerye."*

The portrait of the Prioress, who—

"Was so charitable and so pitous,
And al was conscience and tendre herte,"

whose

"Wymple semely i-pynched was,
Hire nose streight, her eyen grey as glas,
Hire mouth ful smal, and therto softe and reed,
But sikurly sche hadde a fair forheed—†

is one of the most beautiful of the whole. The very host, rough and free spoken to the rest of the company, is fairly conquered by her quiet dignity, and addresses her

"As curteisly as it had ben a mayde,
My lady Prioresse, by your leve,

* The Reeve's Tale, ll. 3940, &c.
† Canterbury Tales, ll. 143, &c.

"NONAYNES DE CANNYNCUNE."

Tho. Hugo del. & sculp. 1863.

So that I wist I scholde yow not greve,
I wolde deme, that ye telle scholde,
A tale next, if so were that ye wolde."*

She complies, and her tale is worthy of her.

The costume of the Nuns of Canyngton differed from that of the Sisters at Buckland. They wore a black robe, with a scapular of the same, and a white whimple; and under the robe a tunic of undyed wool. When in choir or from home, a large black cowl covered the head and shoulders. *(See the figures.)* The dress was not intended to be elegant or picturesque, but was rather adopted for its opposite peculiarities.

Divine Service in Conventual Chapels was performed by Chaplains. Of the music it was said that you might fancy in a good sense that it was the Syrens who sang. Their Confessor was appointed by the Bishop, (page 22.) and was in most Convents the Incumbent of the Parish in which the House was situated.

Of the material scene of these varied duties very few fragments yet remain. The exterior of the present edifice is of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and is in no respect remarkable. There still exist, however, some portions of the basement, where the subsequent alterations have spared a few fragments of the ancient House. These consist of several walls and doorways of "Perpendicular" work, both within the building and communicating with the gardens in the rear. The ground plan of the structure cannot be determined from these remains, as what would seem to have been apartments now take the form of passages, from walls having been built through them for increasing their strength as foundations of the upper floors. Of the general architecture of the House and Conventual Church nothing can be said. Some years since, during

* Ib. ll. 14857, &c.

a series of excavations, fragments were discovered of what appear to have been a reredos. They are of tabernacle work of the "Perpendicular" era, and still bear traces of the blue and red colour which the taste of that day applied to carvings in wood and stone. The altar-stone of the Nuns' Church, or at least a slab bearing five consecration crosses, is built into the fire-place of an old kitchen; and when contrasted with its former position, its cover of white damask (page 50), and the sacred services with which it was associated, is a significant emblem of the fate which has befallen the spot and its olden possessors. The choir, as we have already seen, was a place of sepulture; but of that fact no other record remains save the one of which the reader is already in possession.

There is, however, a veritable relic of no little interest in the roof of what is now a dark passage, but which may have formed a section of a large apartment, possibly the refectory itself. On two of the beams are three lines of inscriptions, painted in a hand of the fifteenth century. The letters are black, with the capitals and points in rubric. They are for the most part imperfect, but are easily intelligible. On the front of one beam is:

• et • dabit • tibi • petracoes • cordis • tui •
Multi • multa • sciut • et • seipcos • nesciunt •

The opposite side of the same beam gives us:

Felix • paupertas • per • quam • acquirit
Honesta • res • leta • paupertas

On the front of a second beam we have:

Nichil • nobis • proderit • paciencia • didiscisse • p t
• ope •

Such was the sacred lore that the very timbers of Canyngton Priory preached to its inmates. The words might stand as mottoes for the history of the House

itself. Human life and all its trials were thus referred to the good providence of God; and patience and self-knowledge thus glorified poverty, and taught that, combined with honesty and honour, the lowliest lot was not without its joy.

Lord Clifford has most obligingly supplied me with several particulars of the excavations just referred to. An old well in the centre of the court was cleared out, and an encaustic tile and fragments of several "grey-beards" were discovered. The remains of the reredos had been worked into a large fire-place, which had pitched so much in the centre as to require removal, when the stones were found to be sculptured at the back, and, of course, were not re-committed to their previous and most inappropriate place. Behind the fire-place a quantity of old stained glass was also found, but in such minute fragments that it could not be put together. The panel-work in the present dining-room was a portion of the old family pew in the parish Church, and was removed when that edifice was "restored" about twenty years ago. In opening a door-way in one of walls the workmen came upon the remains of a circular staircase, the three steps of which were composed of solid blocks of oak, of similar form to an ordinary turret stair. The newel was converted by the carpenters into stall-posts for cattle. His lordship also informs me that no ancient documents relating to the place exist among his family archives,—indeed nothing earlier than the crown grant of the property, made by K. Charles II. to the Lord Treasurer Clifford.

From the foregoing pages I can furnish the reader with the following list of Prioresses. I must refer him for the details respecting each of them to the narrative itself.

1. Emma de Bytelescumb resigned her office in 1317.
2. Johanna de Bere, elected and deposed, 1317.
3. Matilda de Morton, elected 1317, resigned her office 1333.
4. Willelma de Blachyngdon, elected 1334, died 1336. Johanna de Bere, re-elected 1336, died 1343.
5. Avice de Reigners, elected 1343.
6. Johanna occurs 1412.
7. Johanna de Chedeldon died 1440.
8. Johanna Gofyse, elected 1440.
9. Elianor occurs 1499 and 1502, died 1504.
10. Cecilia Verney, the last Prioress, elected 1504.

Johanna de Bractone was Sub-prioress in 1336.

It will not be amiss to add to this list those of the Vicars of Canyngton and Wytheridge, again referring the reader to the previous pages for the various details.

Vicars of Canyngton.—Henry, 1313; William de Trent, 1314; Robert de Charenchowes, 1352; John Hert, 1407; William Baron, 1408; William Clyve, 1417; John Grene, 1428; Walter Ayssheford, 1451; Thomas Braunche, 1472; John Lugwardyn, ——; John Bekham, 1499; Thomas Davy, 1502; Thomas Tremayne, 1503; Richard Adams, 1522; John Bond, 1532.

Vicars of Wytheridge.—Robert Cross, 1362; Henry de Lutton, 1363; Edmund Malmeshull, 1377; William Vexford, 1391; John Luffewike or Lovecock, ——; John Hody, 1425; Philip Lovecock or Polton, ——; Walter Hoggys, 1429; Thomas Bowryng, ——; Robert Gaunt, 1431; John Wolmere, 1448; William Clyff, 1451; John Wynd, 1474; Richard Facy, 1476; Thomas Tremayne, 1517; George Verney, 1521.

A feature of mediæval usage which will not have escaped the readers' notice was the selection of various places for

the admission of clerks to Holy Orders, thus prominently bringing before the people the fact and importance of their ministers' commission. Among these were the Cathedral Church of Wells, the Parish Churches of S. Cuthbert in the same city, of Banwell, Yeovil, Axbridge, Taunton S. Mary Magdalene, S. Mary Redcliff and Temple at Bristol, the Chapel of S. Thomas by Bristol Bridge, and the Chapel at Woky, and the Conventual Churches of S. John Baptist at Wells, the Preaching Friars of Ilchester, Taunton, Muchelney, and Bruton. The officiators were usually Suffragan Bishops, with titles from places "in partibus infidelium."

I have already given in detail the particulars of the history of Canyngton, so far as it had reference to the Priory, or other ecclesiastical holders. Although not required by my subject, a word may now be added about its lay possessors.

The hundred of Canyngton was held by the family of Fitz Payn in the 14th and 15th centuries.* At an inquest held at Stokecursy, on the 7th of October, 1323, it was returned that Robert Ffiuz Payn and Ela his wife might without damage and prejudice to the King enfeoff Jordan de Byntre and Geoffrey de Godmaneston with lands in Stokecursey, Radeweye, Canyngton, &c.† John Horsy demised a water-mill at Canyngton to John, Margery, and Thomas Cole, and Matthew Palmere, and the heirs of the said John, 44 Edward III.‡ The families of Hyll and Popham, and subsequently that of Ponynges, also possessed lands of considerable value. In a charter, dated at Canyngton, on Thursday, the feast of

* Inq. p. m. 9 Edw. II., n. 63. Abbrev. Rot. Orig. 17 Edw, II., r. vij. Inq. p. m. 30 Edw. III., n. 14. Inq. p. m. 16 Ric. II., p. 1, n. 12.

† Inq. ad q. d. 17 Edward II., n. 143.

‡ MS. Harl., 4120, p. 192; al. f. 121b.

S. Thomas, Apostle, 1385, it is set forth that John Popham, son and heir of Hugh Popham, gave to William, son of Stephen Dodesham, eleven acres of meadow, lying in Canyngtonmede, called Pophamesshurst, and fourteen pence of annual rent from an acre of meadow then in the tenure, for life, of Richard Deye, with reversion after the decease of the said Richard; witnesses, Matthew Michel, Richard Lyff, Richard Koker, Roger Grey, Roger Haccheford, and others.* A final concord was entered into between Thomas and John Popham, in Trinity Term of the 10th, and Hilary Term of the 11th Richard II., of the grant of the manor of Postrygg and of twelve acres of land in Canyngton, with an ultimate remainder to Thomas Fitchet, Knt., in fee.† On Thursday next after the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, 18th of Richard II., which is coincident with the 6th of May, 1395, Robert Popham, son of Hugh Popham, released to Baldewin Mallet, Knt., all his right in the manor of Postrygg, and in various lands in Canyngton, Cherdelynch, Ayscholt, and Gotehurst.‡ At an inquest held at Yeuelchestre, on Friday, the morrow of the feast of Corpus Christi, in the first year of Henry VI., or the 4th of June, 1423, the jurors found that Robert Hille had died, seized, among other property, of one messuage, four acres of arable land, and six acres of meadow in Canyngton, which were held of Robert, lord de Ponyngges in soccage, and were of the annual value, beyond reprises, of 10s.; and also, by right of inheritance of Isabella his late wife, of eight acres of meadow, in Canyngton, held of Thomas Muchell in soccage by an annual rent of 4d. in lieu of all services; and, further, that

* Cartæ Miscell., vol. VIII., n 50.
† Hyll Cartulary, f. lxiij.
‡ Hyll Cart., f. lxiiij., &c.

Robert Hille died on Sunday, the feast of S. Mark the Evangelist last past, and that John Hille was his heir.* On the 6th of October, 23rd of Henry VI., 1444, Johanna, widow of James Ffitz James, and John, their son and heir, released to William Dodesham, and his heirs and assigns, lands in Otelegh, in the parish of Canyngton, and in Haretrowe, in the parish of Stokegommer; witnesses, Alexander Hody, John Sydenham, Thomas Copleston, Philip Pym, John Loty, and others.† Alianor, Countess of Northumberland, held the manor of Canyngton in the first year of Richard III.‡ And forty-four years later Henry, Earl of Northumberland, Lord of Ponynges, Fitzpayne, and Bryan, granted to Thomas Arrundell, Esq., the office of Receiver of the Castle of Stockursey, and the manors of Stockursey, Radewoy, Canyngton, &c. The instrument is dated the 9th of June, 1527.||

The history of the Priory shall now be resumed.

For an account of the national events of the time, and the ecclesiastical changes to which they led, for the latter were simply brought about in revenge of the opposition of the Monks to the King's matrimonial designs, I must refer the reader to my former histories of various Religious Houses. I am unwilling to occupy his time further with a matter which I have already helped to make familiar to him.§ In many particulars the history of one pillaged Monastery and its persecuted inmates is that of all, how unequally soever endowed, or how widely soever located from each other. The same foul ways were taken to

* Cart. Miscell., vol. v., n. 236. MS. Harl., 4120, pp. 321, 322.
† Claus. 23 Hen. VI., m. 26. dors.
‡ MS. Harl., 4120, p. 405; al. f. 223.
|| Cart. Antiq., H. 24.
§ See especially the Author's History of Taunton Priory, pp. 82-106.

accelerate the catastrophe, the same base minds conspired, and in many instances the same sacrilegious hands consummated the wrong.

The declaration of the Royal Supremacy was forced upon the Monasteries in 1534. No record, however, of the circumstance, so far as regards Canyngton Priory, has come down to us; though it doubtless fared like its neighbours on all sides, and both received the declaration, and attested its acceptance of the same.

This compulsory admission of the tyrant's claim was by no means intended as a mere victory over the mental opposition of the Religious Orders, but was accurately valued as an engine of future spoliation. Accordingly, the very next year, 1535, saw the compilation of the "Valor," by the aid of which the Religious Houses were to be taxed, in proportion to their several incomes, for the support of the King in his new-fledged honours; and further, that an exact account might thus be had of all ecclesiastical property, which might be turned to good use when the proper season should arrive. The record from its very nature is especially valuable and interesting, as it furnishes us with a complete account of the property of the House wherever situated, together with the various outgoings of every kind. I have given it, as on former occasions, in exact translation, and have clearly arranged the several items with a view of making the whole as intelligible as possible to the modern reader.

Priory of Canyngton.

Declaration of the Extent and Annual Value of all and singular the Lands and Tenements and other Possessions, with the Tithes, Oblations, and all other Issues of the divers Benefices and Chapels, to the aforesaid Priory belonging and appropriated, as below appeareth, to wit,

in the time of Cecilia Varney, now Prioress at the same place, approved and examined by the Commissioners aforenamed [Sir Andrew Lutterell and Hugh Mallet, Esq., Commissioners; Hugh Trotter and John Plompton, Auditors].

LANDS ROUND THE PRIORY.

Value in Issues of the Demesne Lands remaining in the hands of the Prioress, and taxed by four trustworthy men		liij^{s} iiij^{d}

RECTORY WITH THE MANOR OF CANYNGTON.

Value in Issues of the Demesne Lands	xvj^{li}		
Assessed Rents as well of the Free as of the Customary Tenants there, per annum,	xviij^{li}		
Out of this,			
For two Priests in the same Priory, and in the Chapel of Comage appropriated to the Priory, daily Celebrating for the Founders, by real composition	xij^{li}		
Paid to the Vicar there by pension by composition ..	vij^{li}		
In Alms distributed for the soul of Robert Curcy, the Founder there, per annum	lxxv^{s}	j^{d}	
Paid to the Bishop of Bath by procurations, per annum ..	v^{s}		ciij^{s}
Paid to the Archdeacon of Taunton, for Sinodals, per annum	iij^{s}	iij^{d}	
Quit-rent to the Prioress of			

Bockeland, per annum ..	vij^{s}	
Quit-rent to Thomas Michell, per annum	ij^{s} viij^{d}	
Quit-rent to Roger Blewet, per annum	iiij^{s}	
Fee of Thomas Hatche, Steward there, per annum ..	xxvj^{s} viij^{d}	
Fee of Robert Jamys, Receiver there, per annum ..	xxvj^{s} viij^{d}	
Fee of Robert Hyll, Auditor there, per annum ..	xx^{s}	
Fee of Christofer Cley, Bailiff there, per annum ..	xxvj^{s} viij^{d}	
And there remains clear Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties there, with Fines of Land		xxx^{s}

BLAKEDOWN.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear xiiij^{s}

FEDYNGTON.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear iiij^{s}

POWLETT.

Assessed Rents there, per annum	lxx^{s} ij^{d}	
Out of this, For a Quit-rent to the Master of Gauntts, in Bristoll ..	ij^{s}	lxviij^{s} ij^{d}
And there remains clear		

STOWEY.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear xxiij^{s} iij^{d}

BRYSTOLL.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear v^{s}

COUNTY OF DORSET.

PEDILWALDERSTON.

Rent of two Tenements there, per annum	xix^{s}	
Out of this, A Quit-rent to the Prior of Criste Churche in the aforesaid County, per annum	ij^{s} viij^{d}	xvj^{s} iiij^{d}
And there remains clear		

COUNTY OF DEVON.

WETHERIGE.

Rent of two Tenements there, per annum	[xlij^{s}]	
Out of this, A Quit-rent to the Duchy of Lancaster there, per annum	iij^{s} viij^{d}	xxxviij^{s} iiij^{d}
And there remains clear		

GOODELEY.

Rent of divers Tenements there, per annum	cvj^{s}	
Out of this, A Quit-rent to the Cathedral Church of Exon, per annum	xvj^{s}	iiij^{li} x^{s}
And there remains clear		

SKYLGATE.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear xv^{s}

VALUE OF SPIRITUALS AS FOLLOW:

VICARAGE OF CANYNGTON.

Issues of Wool	x^{s}	
„ Lambs	x^{s}	
„ Predial Tithes ..	cviij^{s} ij^{d}	vij^{li} xv^{s} iij^{d}

Issues of Personal Tithes, with other Casualties there, in common years .. .. xxvij^{s} j^{d}

So clear

DEVON.

RECTORY OF WETHERIGE.

Issues of Predial Tithes, with other Casualties there, per annum. Clear .. .. vij^{li}

DORSET.

FREE CHAPEL OF PEDYLWALDERSTON.

Rent of Demesne Lands, with other Casualties there, in common years. Clear .. xl^{s}

Sum total of the value as well of all the Temporals as of the Spirituals above-mentioned. Clear ..xxxix^{li} xv^{s} viij^{d}

The Tithe thereof .. ..lxxix^{s} vi^{d} ob'q'*

Even this valuation, small as it is, appears to have been considered excessive; for an entry occurs in a document still preserved among the records of the Court of Augmention, of which the following is a copy:

"The Priory of Cannyngton in the said County of Somersett.

"The seid Pryory and the demaynes thereof lyeth within thre myles of Towxwell, howbeit ther is lytele proffytt to be don therein for it is heighlye valuatyd."

The Valor supplies us with the following names of Incumbents and Valuations:—

John Bonde, Vicar of Canyngton, valued at vij^{li} x^{s} viij^{d}; Thomas Puffe, Rector of Ffedyngton, valued at vj^{li} x^{s} ij^{d} ob; Thomas Shakyll, Chaplain of Ichestoke, valued at ciij^{s} vj^{d}; and George Verney, Vicar of Witherigge, valued at xxiij^{li} x^{s} iiij^{d}.

* Valor Eccl. j. pp. 209, 210. MS. Harl. 701, fol. 104b.

This return was the groundwork of the persecutions and spoliations which ensued. It revealed the existence of possessions which were too tempting to be allowed to remain long in the hands of their rightful owners, and the Visitation and Dissolution of the Houses followed in as quick succession as the covetous mind could bring to its aid the murderous and thievish hand. No time was lost in the atrocious work.

I have at length, by the aid of a document which will presently be submitted to the reader's notice, recovered the exact date of the Suppression of the Priory. It fell together with those lesser Monasteries which first gratified the tyrant's avarice, and whetted his appetite for the greater and more wealthy. It would seem that the King's Commissioners took the property into their hands as early as the 26th of May, 1536, and allowed, from the revenues, a certain sum for the maintenance of the House and the customary exercise of hospitality. The formal act of Suppression and Dissolution took place on the 23rd of September, 1536.

The small extent and value of the possessions will explain the absence of those various Orders for salaries and other payments granted by the Religious Houses, which were afterwards allowed by the Court of Augmentation, and which must have attracted the notice of the reader of several of my previous histories. The only instance of such a pension, which I have found, is not among the Orders and Decrees referred to, but is the solitary entry connected with the place in Cardinal Pole's Pension Book, compiled in 1556 ; where, as the only existing representative of the House, and receiving a pension accordingly, is Thomas Hache, the chief steward, already mentioned in the Valor (p. 74) whose fee is given as xxs.*

* Card Pole's Pension Book, f. xxix. Appendix, No. IX.

I very much regret that a long and careful search among the documents of the period has not enabled me to furnish the reader with any list of the Sisters or their pensions at the period of the suppression of their House. I have found, however, the order for a pension to Cecilia Verney, the Prioress, granted at that melancholy time. It authorises an annuity or annual pension of ten marcs sterling from the time of the dissolution and suppression of the late Priory to the end of her life, payable by the hands of the Treasurer of the Court of Augmentation, in equal portions, at Lady-Day and Michaelmas, and is stated to proceed from the King's special favour, certain knowledge, and mere motion, by the advice and consent of the Chancellor and Council of the aforesaid Court, for the better maintenance and aid of the said Cecilia. The grant is dated the 20th day of November, in the 28th year of Henry VIII., 1536, just two months after the Surrender.* It bears no signatures in attestation of authority, and, as the name of Cecilia Verney does not appear in any subsequent list of pensionaries, the probability is that this poor victim of ruthless persecution never received even the miserable pittance thus by her injurers ostensibly accorded to her.

Our last view of the Sisters is thus more unhappily associated even than that of many of the members of similar communities. Out of their quiet Conventual home, so long the abode of security and peace, they were turned out to brave the inclement storms and to struggle against the unexperienced hardships and temptations of a world which they had known only from a safe vantage-ground, destitute, at length, of any friends or protectors, save those whom a recollection of their former estate, respect for their character, or compassion for their sufferings might raise

* Miscell. Vols. Augment. Off., Vol. 244, n. 110. Appendix, No. x.

up and attract. Who can worthily picture the silent and secret martyrdoms of those evil days!

As soon as the property was in the King's hands, a new Survey was taken. It will be better to give the part which remains in somewhat of its original form.

MANOR OF CANYNGTON.

Issues of Demesne Lands:		
For 38 acres of meadow thus leased in gross ..	xxxiij^{s} viij^{d}	iiij^{ld} xij^{s} viij^{d}
For 59 acres of arable and pasture, at xij^{d} the acre	lix^{s}	

RECTORY OF CANYNGTON, IN SOMERSET.

Tithes of corn, &c.: Less by iij^{s} iiij^{d} to the Archdeacon of Taunton, and v^{s} to the Bishop of Bath and Wells	vij^{ld} xv^{s} iij^{d}

WETHERIGE, IN DEVON.

Predial Tithes, with other perquisites of the Rectory	vij^{ld}

FREE CHAPEL OF PEDILWALDISTON, IN DORSET.

A portion of Tithes of corn, wool, &c.: Less by four pounds of wax payable to the Prior of Christ Church, in Dorset ..	xl^{s}
The sum total, ..	xxj^{ld} vij^{s} xj^{d}

The declaration bears date the 28th year of K. Henry VIII., and is authenticated by the signature of William Turnor, Auditor.*

One of the most interesting and valuable returns of the whole series is now to be examined. It is the Ministers' Accounts for the interval between the 4th of February, 1536, and the following Michaelmas, and presents us with a number of particulars as to tenants, &c., at the time of the Dissolution, which the "Valor," though originally

* Miscell. Voll. Augment. Off. No. 205, p. 28. Appendix, No. XI.

compiled from returns of a similar character, does not supply. I have endeavoured to make the document tell its tale as plainly and intelligently as possible.

The Priory of Canyngton.

The Accounts of all and singular Bailiffs, Farmers, and other acountable Ministers, of all and singular manors, lands, tenements, rectories, portions, pensions, and other possessions, spiritual and temporal, pertaining to the said late Priory now dissolved and suppressed, &c., &c., to wit, from the 4th day of February, in the 27th year of Henry VIII., to the feast of S. Michael the Archangel next following in the 28th year of the same; that is to say, for half a year, six weeks, and six days, as follow :—

The site of the Priory or Manor of Cannyngton, with the Rectory of the same, the Rectory of Whetherige, and the Free Chapel of Pedilwaldeston.

The Account of Henry Andrewe, Deputy of Edward Rogers, farmer :

Arrears none.

Farm of 28 acres of meadow, 59 acres of arable land and pasture, and 6 acres of underwood ..	iiij^{li} xv^{s} viij^{d}	xxxix^{li} xij^{s} xj^{d}
Farm of Rectory of Cannyngton	vij^{li} xv^{s} iij^{d}	
Farm of Vicarage ..	xvj^{li}	
Farm of Rectory of Wetherige, including two Tenements worth xlij^{s}	ix^{li} ij^{s}	
Farm of tithe of corn, wool, &c., pertaining to the Chapel of Pedilwaldeston	xl^{s}	

SUM TOTAL xxxix^{ld} xij^{s} xj^{d}

OF WHICH HE IS DISBURDENED AS FOLLOWS :—

Farm of all the aforesaid lands, for the first half of this year, in possession of the late Prioress, Cecilia Verney, for her use and the necessary maintenance of her House	xvij^{ld} xv^{s} v^{d} ob.	
Pension and commons of the Vicar there ministering, including his pension of xxxvj^{s} viij^{d} for one quarter ending at Michaelmas, at the rate of vij^{ld} vj^{s} viij^{d} per annum; and vj^{s} viij^{d}, for commons, from the time of the Dissolution of the Priory, that is, from the 23rd of September, to Michaelmas following that is to say, for the space of four weeks, at the rate of xx^{d} a week ..	xliij^{s} iiij^{d}	xxxix^{ld} xij^{s} xj^{d}
To the same for stipend and commons of a Priest serving the Chapel at Comage, including xiij^{s} iiij^{d} for his stipend for the same quarter, at the rate of liij^{s} iiij^{d} per annum; and iiij^{s} for commons, for the said four weeks, at the rate of xij^{d} a week	xvij^{s} iiij^{d}	

Delivered to Sir Thomas Arundell, Receiver-General, ... viij^{li} xiiij^{s} ix^{d} ob.
Still owing .. .. x^{li} ij^{s}*

DEDUCTION ALLOWED from farm of Manor, for the last half of this year, on account of money paid to and received by the late Prioress as before .. .. .. viij^{li}

Remaining clear .. .. .. xlij^{s}

OVER:—

Received by the late Prioress of the rents of two Tenements in Wetherige, payable at Midsummer .. .. .. xlij^{s}

CANNYNGTON BAILIWICK, WITH ITS MEMBERS.

The Account of Christopher Cley, Bailiff:
Arrears none.

RENTS OF THE FREE TENANTS in Cannyngton:—

Heirs of Peryman, for one marsh v^{s}
Rent of one tenement, from heirs of Thomas Tylly .. .. xij^{d} — vj^{s}

RENTS OF THE CUSTOMARY TENANTS in Cannyngton:—

Annual Rent of two cottages in the tenure of Katherine Rowswyll, payable at the four terms of the year in equal portions ix^{s}

Annual Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of David Hunt .. iiij^{s} ij^{d}
„ „ „ Walter Grove .. v^{s} ij^{d}
„ „ „ Richard Rowswyll .. v^{s} ij^{d}
„ „ „ John Hoper .. iiij^{s}
„ „ „ Agnes Goodman .. iiij^{s} iiij^{d}
„ „ „ Robert Grove .. xix
„ „ „ Thomasine Rals .. xxv^{s} vj^{d}

* Appendix, No. XII (I).

„	one cottage	„	Alexander Pileman	..	iiij^{s}	
„	„	„	Robert Gardyn	..	iij^{s}	vj^{d}
„	one tenement	„	Robert Denman	..	viij^{s}	
„	„	„	The Churchwarden	..	ij^{s}	
„	„	„	John Betheze	..	iiij^{s}	
„	„	„	John Pounde	..	iij^{s}	
„	„	„	Thomasine Lewys, widow	..	iij^{s}	iiij^{d}
„	„	„	Isabella Sumpter	..	iiij^{s}	iiij^{d}
„	„	„	Isabella Page	..	iij^{s}	iiij^{d}
„	„	„	Richard Kympe	..	iiij^{s}	
„	„	„	Robert Heyward	..	v^{s}	
„	„	„	William Pyleman	..	xlvj^{s}	viij^{d}
„	„	„	Leonard Tylly	..	xiiij^{s}	viij^{d}
„	„	„	Edward Lokyar	..	xxxj^{s}	
„	one cottage	„	Margery Dodyng	..	v^{s}	vj^{d}
„	one tenement	„	Robert Gover	..	v^{s}	
„	„	„	Christopher Clay	..	xxiij^{s}	iiij^{d}
„	„	„	George Porter	..	xvj^{s}	viij^{d}
„	one cottage	„	Edythe Dodyng	..	iiij^{s}	iiij^{d}
„	one tenement	„	John Bawne	..	ix^{s}	
„	„	„	John Courte	..	iij^{s}	iiij^{d}
„	„	„	John Hunte	..	xxxv^{s}	
„	„	„	John Yeomans	..	viij^{s}	viij^{d}
„	„	„	William Piers	..	iij^{s}	viij^{d}
„	„	„	John Lokyer	..	vij^{s}	
„	„	„	John Colles	..	xiij^{s}	iiij^{d}
„	„	„	John Fforman	..	vi^{s}	viij^{d}
„	„	„	William Browne	..	ix^{s}	ij^{d}
„	„	„	Isabella Bulpan	..	xv^{s}	x^{d}
„	„	„	John Cooke	..	vij^{s}	
„	„	„	John Bowe	..	viij^{s}	
„	„	„	John Cornysshe	..	vij^{s}	x^{d}

xxij^{d}
xxix^{ld}

„ one tenement „	Richard Power	..	xj^{s}	vj^{d}
„ „ „	John Porker	..	vj^{s}	
„ „ „	Vincent Jenynges	..	xj^{s}	
„ „ „	John Bulgen	..	iiij^{s}	
„ „ „	Thomas Denegan	..	ix^{s}	vj^{d}
„ one corn mill „	Richard Burcomb	..	lxxiij^{s}	iiij^{d}
„ one tenement „	The same	..	ij^{s}	viij^{d}
„ „ „	John Fforman	..	v^{s}	
„ „ „	Matilda White	..	ij^{s}	viij^{d}
„ „ „	Richard Sowlyng	..	iiij^{s}	
„ „ „	Cornelius Hooper	..	iiij^{s}	iiij^{d}
„ „ „	Robert Marlar	..	iiij^{s}	iiij^{d}
„ „ „	John Wynter	..	x^{s}	
„ „ „	John Fforman	..	iiij^{s}	viij^{d}
„ one cottage „	Maurice Dawe	..	iiij^{s}	
„ one tenement „	John Staunton	..	viij^{s}	
„ one cottage „	John Beram	..		xvj^{d}
„ „ „	Simon Betheze	..	ij^{s}	

Powlet.

Assessed Rents :			
Of land called The Overland, in the tenure of John Birge ..	xxvj^{s}	vj^{d}	lxxvij^{s}
Of land called The Overland, in the tenure of Roger Ffrye ..	xix^{s}	vj^{d}	
Of lands in the tenure of Thomas Ffrye	xvj^{s}		
Of lands in the tenure of John Saywell	xv^{s}		

Stowey.

Assessed Rents :			
Of one meadow, in the tenure of John Morres	x^{s}		

Of one tenement, in the tenure of John Cowbuck, payable at Michaelmas and Hockday (the second Tuesday after Easter week)	xxiij^{s}	xxxiij^{s}

SKYLGATE.

Assessed Rents :

Of lands in the tenure of John Sacton and others		xv^{s} viij^{d}

BURTPORT AND BRADFORD.

Assessed Rents :

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Weryng	xj^{s}	xix^{s}
Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of George Redd	viij^{s}	

FFEDYNGTON.

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of William Quyck, payable at Midsummer	iiij^{s}

BLAKDOWNE.

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Scholand, payable at Midsummer ..	vj^{s}

BRISTOWE.

Rent of one tenement, payable at the feast of S. James, Apostle	vj^{s}

GOODLEIGH.

Rents of Free Tenants :

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Hartknolle, payable at Lady Day and Michaelmas	ij^{s}			cvj^{s}
Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Elys ..	xiiij^{s}	iiij^{d}		
„ „ „ William Roger ..	x^{s}	ij^{d}		
„ „ „ John Downe ..	xij^{s}	iiij^{d}		

„	„	„	Joan Sleper . .	xxij^{s}	
„	„	„	Henry Shirlond . .	x^{s}	
„	„	„	Roger Cloutman . .	x^{s}	
„	„	„	Roger Knyght . .	xj	
„	one cottage	„	William Clowtman . .	iiij^{s}	
„	one tenement	„	Alice Velacott, widow	x^{s}	ij^{d}
	SUM TOTAL, xlij^{ld} xiiij vj^{d}				

FEES AND WAGES:

Stipends of accountant, auditor's clerk, &c. xv^{s} iiij^{d}

RENTS RESOLUTE, outside the Manor of Cannyngton:

To Thomas Michell, for a chief rent	ij^{s} viij^{d}	xv^{s} j^{d}
To the Prioress of Bukland, for a similar rent	vij^{s} vj^{d}	
To Roger Blewet, for a similar rent	xv^{d}	
To the King, for lands in Goodleigh	iij^{s} viij^{d}	
SUM OF THE ALLOWANCES aforesaid	xxx^{s} v^{d}	

AND HE STILL OWES xlj^{ld} iiij^{s} j^{d}

OF WHICH HE IS DISBURDENED, AS FOLLOWS:—

To Cecilia Verney, the late Prioress, for moneys expended by her, during the first half of the present year in the maintenance of her House, previous to the first arrival of the King's Commissioners, which was on the 26th of May, in the 28th year of Henry VIII. . .	xix^{ld} xviij^{s} iij^{d} ob.	
To the same, for moneys expended from the said 26th of May, to the time of the Dissolution, the 23rd of September, in the same year, a space of seventeen weeks	vj^{ld}	x^{s} j^{d}
To Sir Thomas Arundell, Receiver-General	x^{ld} xviij^{s} v^{d}	
AND HE STILL OWES	lxxvij^{s} iij^{d} ob.*	

* Appendix, No. xii (2).

ALLOWED by payment to Thomas Hatche, General Steward of the Court, of his annual stipend of xx^{s}, granted him for life by letters patent of the Prioress and Convent		xx^{s}
STILL REMAINING DUE		lvij^{s} iij^{d} ob.*
OVER:—		
Rents received by Cecilia Verney, the late Prioress, payable at Midsummer, from the issues of land in Stowey	ij^{s} vj^{d}	lj^{s} iij^{d} ob.
Poulet	xvj^{d}	
Cannyngton	xlvij^{s} v^{d} ob.	
Rent of tenement in Bristoll, in arrear for this whole year		vj^{s}*

There are other returns from this time to the 30th year of Henry VIII., when the greater part of the property left the King's hands for those of the principal grantee; but they are of no interest compared with that now introduced to the reader, from the absence of those minute particulars with which it happily abounds, and which make it so living and exact a picture of the estates to which it refers.

I have now to show how the spoil was distributed.

In the 30th year of his reign, 1538, the King, "of his special grace, and in consideration of good, true, and faithful service," granted to Edward Rogers, whom we have already seen in possession as farmer of the property, the whole House and site of the late Priory of Cannyngton, in the County of Somerset, and all the church, bell-tower and cemetery of the said late Priory. Also all messuages, houses, buildings, granaries, stables, dove-cots, gardens,

* Ministers' Accounts, 27-28 Hen. VIII. Off. Augment.

orchards, &c., as well within as without, and adjacent or near to the site, sept, circuit, precinct, &c., of the said late Priory. Also all the manor of Cannyngton, and all the Rectory of Cannyngton, and the nomination and presentation to the Vicarage of Cannyngton whensoever vacant, with all the rights, members and appurtenances belonging to the said late Priory. Also all messuages, lands, tenements, mills, meadows, pastures, woods, pensions, portions, tithes, offerings and emoluments whatsoever, as well spiritual as temporal, situate, lying or being in Cannyngton, Powlett, Stowey and Ffedyngton, in the county of Somerset or elsewhere soever. The property was rated at the clear annual value of forty-five pounds, eight shillings and ten pence; and was to be held by the said Edward Rogers, and heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, in chief, by the service of a tenth part of one Knight's fee, and a yearly rent of sixteen pounds, eight shillings and ten pence. The issues, &c., to commence from Michaelmas last past. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 8th of May, 1538.*

By a decree of the Court of Augmentation, in Trinity Term, the 4th of July, 31 Henry VIII., 1539, a "pencyon of thre shyllynges and thre pence yerly payable for Synodes oute of the p'sonage of Cannyngton belongyng to the late monastery of Cannyngton in the said counctie of Som's'" was allowed to "the Archedeacon of Tawnton, and hys successors," together with arrears from the time of the Dissolution and Suppression, to be paid by the hands of the several particular receivers of the revenues and possessions of the dissolved House.†

* Orig. 30 Hen. VIII., p. 2, r. ccxxxj. Add. MSS. B. M., n. 6365, p. 95b. Pat. 30 Hen. VIII., p. 2, m. 9. Leland Itin., II. 68. Appendix, No. XIII.

† Decrees, vol. x, f. iij^{c}liij, iij^{c}liiijb.

On the 21st of March, 1539-40, the King granted to Sir John Horsey, for the sum of £1242 3s. 9d. of lawful English money, a tenement and all lands, meadows, pastures, &c., lately in the tenure of George Reed, and situated in the parish of Bradford, in the county of Dorset, and lately belonging to the dissolved Priory of Cannyngton, and parcel of its lands and possessions. They were estimated of the annual value of eight shillings. Besides this, was granted at the same time to the said Sir John Horsey, the site of the monastery of Shyrborne, which had been leased to him, by an indenture dated at Westminster, the 4th of January, 1539-40, from the preceding Michaelmas for the term of twenty-one years, at an annual rent of 104s. 8d. Also the manor of Wyke, in the county of Dorset, leased at the same time and for the same term, at an annual rent of £16 10s. 6d. Also land at Creche, in the isle of Purbyk, formerly belonging to the monastery of Byndon. Also messuages or a mansion called Longleyte, in the county of Wiltes, lately belonging to the monastery of Henton, in the county of Somerset. All this property was to be held by the said John in chief, by the service of a tenth part of one Knight's fee, and, among other payments for the other portions, a farm rent for Bradford of tenpence, to be paid yearly at Michaelmas. The grant bears date, witness the King, at Walden, the 21st of March, 1539-40.*

In the 34th year of his reign the King granted the messuages, lands, tenements, &c., belonging to the Priory, situated in the parish of Goodley and county of Devon, to Humfrey Colles, gentleman, and his heirs and assigns. The grant included the reversion of other property, the particulars of which are recited in its preamble, some account of which will be especially interesting to the local

* Orig. 31 Hen. VIII., p. 2, r. ccxlj. Pat. 31 Hen. VIII., p. 6, mm. 32, 33, 34.

reader. The instrument sets forth that by a certain indenture under the great seal, bearing date at Westminster, the 10th July, in the thirty-third year of his reign, 1541, his Majesty had leased to John Earl of Bath the whole house and site of the late Hospital of S. John of Briggewater, with all the houses, edifices, &c., thereunto pertaining; also a close of pasture called The Hundred Acres, containing by estimation eighty-four acres, and another close of pasture called Smale Crofte, containing by estimation twenty-five acres, commonly called The Demeane Landes of the aforesaid House, for the term of twenty-one years from the feast of S. Michael next following, at a yearly rent of eight pounds, three shillings and sixpence, payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas. Also, that by another indenture between the King on the one part and John Ogan on the other, bearing date the 23rd of October, in the thirty-second year of his reign, 1540, he had leased to the aforesaid John Ogan the Grange of Barton, otherwise called Blakedon, with its appurtenances, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton, together with all the houses, edifices, granaries, dove-cots, orchards, &c., thereunto belonging;—to wit, a meadow called Barnehayes, containing by estimation one acre; a meadow called Parkemeade, containing by estimation two acres; a pasture called Oldhayes, or Oldbares, containing by estimation three acres; a pasture called The Orcheyarde, containing by estimation one acre; a pasture called Fflower, containing by estimation ten acres; a pasture called The Twentie Acres Close, containing by estimation twenty acres; a pasture close called Barnehayes, containing by estimation five acres; a pasture close called The Sevenacres Close, containing by estimation seven acres; a pasture close called Woodcrofte, containing by estimation twelve acres; a pasture close called Laushere, adjacent to

Spyding, containing by estimation twelve acres; a pasture close of Spryng, containing by estimation seven acres; a pasture called Kinges Leasse, containing by estimation thirteen acres; a pasture adjacent to Laushere, containing by estimation one acre; a pasture called The Priours Parke; a pasture in the parish of Lyng, in the tenure of Thomas Blansheflower and William Blansheflower; all the land, in Pytmyster, in the tenure of Richard Mylbury; all the lands, in Pytmyster aforesaid, in the tenure of Thomas Spryng,—belonging and appertaining to the said grange. Also, that by the same indenture he had leased to the aforesaid John Ogan all the Rectory and Chapel of Corff and Pytmyster, formerly belonging and appertaining to the said late Priory, and all the tithes of corn, pensions, and all other profits whatsoever, of old time appertaining to the aforesaid Rectory and Chapel. The said John Ogan to have and to hold the lands, &c., aforesaid from Michaelmas last past to the end of the term and through the term of twenty-one years, at a yearly rent of a hundred shillings for Barton, and of eight pounds seven shillings for the tithes, &c., of Pytmyster and Corff, payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas, or within a month after. Also, that by another indenture between the King on one part, and James Dyer, gentleman, on the other, bearing date at Westminster, the 29th of December, in the thirty-first year of his reign, 1539, he had leased to the aforesaid James Dyer the Rectory of Trull, with all its rights and appurtenances, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton, with all tithes of corn, wool, lambs, &c., the tithes of Hamewoode and Sernehaye, parcel of the Rectory of Trull, excepted, which were leased to John Smyth; the said James Dyer to have and to hold the said

tithes from Michaelmas last past for a term of twenty-one years next following, at a yearly rent of eight pounds of lawful English money, payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas. Also, that by another indenture between the King on the one part, and John Luttrell, of Dunster, on the other, bearing date at Westminster, the 28th of October, in the thirty-first year of his reign, 1539, he had leased to the aforesaid John the site of the late House or Priory of Dunster, and all the lands, &c., appertaining thereunto, for the term of twenty-one years, at a yearly rent of seventy-three shillings and four-pence, payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas. This is followed by the recital of some leases of lands formerly in the possession of the monasteries of Pilton and the Grey Friars of Exeter. The grant then proceeds to set forth that for the sum of nine hundred and sixty-two pounds, seventeen shillings and four-pence, of lawful English money, paid by his beloved subject, Humfrey Colles, gentleman, he had granted the reversion of all the aforesaid lands, with their woods, &c., together with the lands at Goodley already mentioned, formerly belonging to the Priory of Cannyngton ; the site of the Priory at Bathe and lands belonging thereto ; lands formerly belonging to the Priory of Barliche ; to Sion, in the county of Middlesex ; to Martok Priory, in Somerset ; and to the Priory of S. Bartholomew and other Houses in London. He further grants to the said Humphrey Colles all the woods growing here and there in Priours Parke, containing by estimation twenty acres, in the parishes of Pytmyster, Corff, Trull, and Orcharde, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton ; the wood called Ffoxegrove, containing by estimation ten acres, in the parish of Dunster ; the wood

called Cathanger Grove, containing by estimation four acres and half, in the parish of Stogursey, and formerly belonging to the late Priory of Barliche ; the grove called The Parke, containing by estimation ten acres, in Bromefelde, in the parish of Estbuckelande, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Pilton; and the copse called The Lyttlecops, containing by estimation six acres, in the parish of Estbuckeland, and also formerly belonging to the late Priory of Pilton. Also the advowsons, presentations, &c. of Corff, Pytmyster, and Trull, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. The Barliche property was estimated at the clear annual value of forty shillings ; that of Cannyngton at one hundred and six shillings a year; that of Pilton at four pounds and one halfpenny ; and that of the Greyfreeres at forty shillings. The said Humfrey Colles was to have and hold these lands, advowsons, rights, &c., of the King and his heirs, and successors, in chief, by the service of a fortieth part of one Knight's fee, and an annual rent for the Bridgwater property, of 16s. 4¼d.; for the Cannyngton property, of 10s. 7¼d.; for Barton or Blakedon, Lyng, Pytmyster, &c., of 10s.; for the Rectory and Chapel of Corff and Pytmyster, of 16s. 8½d.; for Trull, of 2s. 8d., together with a yearly stipend of £6 13s. 4d. to a Chaplain for performing Divine Service in Trull Church ; for Dunster, of 7s. 4d.; for Bathe, of 8s. 4d. ; for Cathanger, formerly belonging to Barliche, of 4s. ; for the Pilton property, of 8s. ¼d.; for that of the Grey Friars of Exeter, of 4s.; for Martok, of 6s. 1¾d. ; and for that in London, of 12s. The grant further acquits the said Humfrey Colles of the payment of all corrodies, rents, annuities, &c. except the rents reserved to the Crown, and the stipend of the Chaplain at Trull before mentioned. It concludes by giving him the issues of

the several estates from Michaelmas last past, and is dated at Westminster, the 16th of March, 1543.*

The Blakedone property was Requested for purchase by Richard Androys in the 35th year of Henry VIII. The Request stated that the rent of one tenement was vj^{s}, and of another viij^{s}; and that a "parcell of no manor nor any chase, parke, fforeste, or mancion place of the Kinges maiestie is nye adionyng." "The trees growing in hedgis inclosing the the sayd landes and tenementes wylbarely suffyce to repayre and maynteyne the sayd hedgis and fencys therefore not valuid."‡ The King thereupon granted to the said Richard Andrewes and Nicholas Temple a tenement in the parish of Blakedon, in the county of Somerset, in the tenure of John Hollard, and certain lands, meadows, pastures, &c., in Blakedon, in the tenure of John Chyrby, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Cannyngton. The property was to be held in chief, by a service of a fortieth part of one Knight's fee, and an annual rent of 22½^{d}. The grant, which was to take effect from Michaelmas last past, included other lands in the counties of Worcester, Oxford, Bucks, Gloucester, Wilts, &c., and was dated, witness the King, at Terlyng, the 15th of July, 1543.‡

We have now to notice the fate of the Rectory of Wytherygge. It was first leased to the insatiate Edward Rogers by an indenture, dated at Westminster, the 20th of May, 1536, with all and singular its tithes of corn, hay, lambs, &c., for a term of twenty-one years, at an annual rent of £7. It was subsequently, after a Request to purchase, dated the 12th of March, 35 Henry VIII., granted in

* Orig. 34 Hen. VIII. p. 3. r. xxxij. Pat. 34 Hen. VIII., p. 11. mm. 14 (19)—11 (22). Appendix, No. xiv.

† Part. for Grants, 35 Hen. VIII., Androys Richard, Nos. 18, 30.

‡ Orig. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 1. r. cxxxiij. Pat. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 3. mm. 8 (17)—11 (22).

reversion to George Heydon, gentleman, and Hugh Stucley, Esq., for the sum of £301 7s., together with three cottages at Wytherygge, belonging to the late Priory of Cannyngton; the advowson and presentation of the Vicarage and Church of Wytherygge; sundry lands at Rollesclyff, in the parish of Brodeclyst or Brodeclyff and county of Devon, formerly belonging to the Priory of S. Nicholas, Exeter; at Saltmayde, in the parish of Clyff S. George; and at Lewes in Sussex, belonging to that famous Abbey. The Rectory of Wytherygge, with the cottages, &c. was valued at £9 2s. 4d.; the property at Lewes at 16s. 8d.; and that belonging to the Priory of S. Nicholas at £4 13s. 4d. per annum. All was to be held in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one Knight's fee, and, among other payments for the rest, a farm rent for Wytherygge, with the three cottages, of 18s. 3d., payable at Michaelmas. The grant was to take effect from Michaelmas last past, and bears date, witness the King, at Westminster, the 14th of June, 1544.*

In his 36th year, after a Request to purchase, dated the 10th of October, in that year, the King granted to David Clayton, or Clutton, of the city of Westminster, gentleman, for the sum of £221 of good and lawful English money, all the messuages, tofts, cottages, &c., situated in Skilgate and Brussheforde, in the county of Somerset, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Cannyngton. Also a messuage, tenement, mill, and two acres of land, situate in Lucote or Lacote, in the parish of Stokepurowe, in the county of Somerset, in the tenure or occupation of Thomasine Hodges, or her assigns, and formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. Also a messuage in Weshford, in the

* Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 6. r. xx. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 21. mm. 28 (24)—26 (26). Appendix, No. xv.

parish of Oldeclyffe, in the county of Somerset, in the tenure or occupation of John Hobbys, and formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. Also the manor or grange of Hydon, in the county of Somerset, and messuages in the hamlet of Wytham Ffrary, Blackdowne, Chedder, and Predi, in the county of Somerset, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Wytham. Also various lands in Bedfordshire, Nottingham, Wilts, and Yorkshire. The value of the Cannyngton property was 15s. 8d.; of that of Taunton 7s.; and of that of Wytham 66s. 8d. The grant was dated at Westminster, the 29th of November, 1544.*

The hundred of Canyngton, parcel of the possessions of Henry, late Marquis of Exeter, of high treason attainted, with all its appurtenances, rents, reversions, advowsons of Churches, Chapels, &c., was in the first place leased to the same Edward Rogers, by an indenture, dated at Westminster, the 17th of March, 1541, for the term of twenty-one years from the preceding Michaelmas, at a yearly rent of seven pounds, five shillings, and three-farthings. Its yearly value was estimated at seven pounds, five shillings and one half-penny. The manor of Radway Ffytzpayn, with all its members, &c., parcel of the possessions of the same Henry attainted, valued at the annual sum of twenty-six pounds and elevenpence half-penny, was also leased to the said Edward Rogers, for the term of his life, by an indenture dated at Westminster, the 21st of February, 1541. Further, the free Chapel of Pyddelwaldestone, in the county of Dorset, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Cannyngton, and estimated at the clear annual value of forty shillings, was leased to the same Edward Rogers, by an indenture dated at

*Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., ɔ .9. r. l. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 4. mm. 46 (6) —42 (10).

Westminster, the 20th of March, 1537, for twenty-one years from the foregoing Michaelmas, at a yearly rent of forty shillings. The reversion of all these was now granted, from Michaelmas last past, to the aforesaid Edward Rogers, who had by this time acquired the site of the Priory of Mynchin Buckland, and to his heirs male, after a Request to purchase, dated the 16th of June, 1545. The manor of Radway Ffytzpayn and the hundred of Canyngton were to be held in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one Knight's fee; the Chapel of Pyddelwaldestone by fealty only, in free socage and not in chief, with an annual farm rent of four shillings, payable at Michaelmas. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Tychefelde, the 3rd of August, 1545.*

Lastly, after a Request to purchase, dated the 8th of July, 1545, the King granted to Henry Brayne and John Marsshe, for the sum of £739 15s. 2½d., the tenement or burgage, in the tenure or occupation of —— Chester, in the parish of S. Michael and city of Bristol, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Cannyngton, and all other messuages, &c., situated in the said city, and formerly belonging to the said late Priory. The aforesaid burgage was of the yearly annual value of 6s., and was to be held in free socage by fealty only, and an annual farm rent of sevenpence halfpenny, payable at Michaelmas. Other lands were included in the grant which formerly belonged to the Monasteries of S. Mary Magdalene Bristol, Bathe, Keynsham, Henton, Wytham, Clyve, Mynchynbarowe, Cirencester, S. Mary of Graces, Shene, Laicok, Braden-

* Orig. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 3, r. ix. Pat. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 3. mm. 37 (9), 36 (10). Appendix, No. XVI.

stock, Tewkesburie, &c. The instrument was dated at Westminster, the 25th of September, 1545.*

The reader will remember the gift of certain lands in Poulet, for the maintenance of lights in the Church of Canyngton (p. 37). Ten acres of this or some neighbouring property in the tenure of Walter Stone, devoted to a similar purpose, — "lyghtes foundyd w^tin the paryshe churche ther" — of the annual value of viij^s, but, according to the Certificate of Chantries, dated the 8th of February, 2 Edward VI., 1548-9, subject to a "rente resolute paide yerely, xv^d ob'," to the Duke of Somerset, as of the manor of Tuckeswell, and so remaining clear vj^s viij^d ob', were granted to William Morris and Edwarde Isaack.†

A Mansion House and Lands at Cannyngton, of the annual value of vj^li xv^s vj^d, belonging to the Free Chapel of Ichestok, were granted to Sir John Thynne and Laurence Hide. The plate and ornaments of this Chantry are stated in the Certificate to be "none but a challice," the weight of which is carefully given as ten ounces and a half.‡ Thomas Shackeley, the last incumbent, who is returned at the time of the Suppression as "clerke, of thage of l yeres," was still living in 1556, and at that time in receipt of a pension of c^s.‖

Preserved in the Record Office, among the former contents of a bag labelled "Augmentation," is a Roll of Arrears of Pensions and Tenths of Bailiffs and Collectors

* Orig. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 1. r. lxvij. Pat. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 5. mm. 38 (10)—34 (14).

† Sales of Chantries, vol. j. ff. 69,69b. Certificates of Chantries, 42. n. 64.

‡ Sales of Chantries, vol. ij. ff. 245b., 246. Certificates of Chantries, 42. n. 64.

‖ Card. Pole's Pension Book, f. xxx^mo.

in several of the western counties for the year ending at Michaelmas, 2 and 3 Philip and Mary, 1555-6. There are three defaulters connected with the property whose fate we have been investigating. Edward Rogers, one year in arrear for Cannyngton, owed xvj^{li} viij^{s} x^{d}, and for Puddeltowne, iiij^{d}; Antony Ackeland, for tenements in Bristol, vij^{d} ob.; and William Crowche, for tenements in Blackedon, xxij^{d} ob. In connexion with that of Mynchin Buckland there are Edward Rogers, for Buckland, owing vij^{s} vij^{d}; John Windham, for the manor of Hele, lxv^{s}; Alexander Popeham, for divers places, xiij^{s} iiij^{d}; the Vicar of Pawlett, a pension of xiij^{s} iiij^{d}; the Vicar of Northepetherton, a pension of xl^{s}; and the Vicar of Talland, a pension of ij^{s}. There are also defaulters connected with the estates formerly belonging to the Monasteries of Worspring, Barliche, Cleve, Taunton, Mountague, Brewton, S. John's Wells, S. John's Bridgewater, Athelney, Bathe, Keynsham, Henton, Witham, and Glastonbury. The Receiver-General, John Aylworth, prays to be exonerated from these arrears, because in very many cases no distress can be taken, and in others he needs the aid of the Court of Exchequer for their collection. This document supplies positive proof, if such were needed, that the sums charged on the several estates for pensions, tenths, &c., were ignored soon after their possession by the King's grantees. And appended to it is a notice, singularly indicative of the state of utter confusion to which sacrilege had reduced even the spoil for which the horrible work was undertaken, and which may well be allowed to close this fearful tale of spoliation and wrong:—"Memor'd' that the Collectors of the Chantryes in the Countie of Somers' haue not this yeare auneswered nor paied any p'te of their

collecc'ons, nor the Receyvor knowith not who be the Collectors nor where to find theym."

The annals of Canyngton are now brought to a conclusion, so far as the main business of the author is concerned, which ends with the alienation of the estates from their lawful owners, and their transfer to the King's grantees. I may add, however, that the property at Canyngton remained in the possession of the family of Rogers until the year 1672. Intestine feuds had bitterly cursed the doomed race, when "the estate tayle of the sayd Edward Rogers determined by the failure of his issue male, on or about the 2nd day of the month of September, 1672."* The sin had attracted the usual judgment. The lands reverted to the Crown, and were granted on the 15th of July, 1672, to Thomas, Lord Clifford. This eminent man was born on the 1st of August, 1630; and was present at the sea-fight with the Dutch, on the 3rd of June, 1665, and at Bergen, on the 2nd of August, in the same year. He was raised to the peerage as Baron Clifford, on the 20th of April, 1672, and was made Lord High Treasurer in the following November. On the 19th of June, 1673, he resigned his office, retired into the country, and died a few months afterwards. A dispute arose about the fee-farm rent of £16 8s. 10d., which, as we have already seen, was ordered to be paid annually to the King. This was settled by decree in the King's Remembrancer's Office, in Michaelmas Term, 29 Charles II. The property has remained in the hands of the Cliffords from that time to our own, and has been occupied by them for the far greater part of the intervening period. In or about the year 1807, the mansion, which, as I have stated, is,

* Harl. Cart. 111 H. n. 22.

with the exception of the few and inconspicuous fragments already described, of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, reverted, by a curious coincidence, after the lapse of between two and three hundred years, to its predecessor's original purpose, and was put into the possession of a Sisterhood of about thirteen Benedictine Nuns from Belgium, who continued to reside in it for twenty-six years. A corner of the orchard was their cemetery, and among the long green grass, and shaded by weeping willows, may still be seen the white wooden crosses which mark the last resting place of several of the inmates. I noticed the names of Catherine Macdonald, ob. Nov. 29, 1831, æt. 73; Frances S——, ob. 12 June, 1824, æt. 81; Sr. Lucy Magdalen Whitechurch, ob. Nov. 17, 1829, æt. 29; and Sr. Mary Magdalen Knight, 1825, æt. 36. A large marble slab notes the grave of Peter Collingridge, O.S.F., sometime Bp. of Thespis, who died in 1829. Since the period to which these memorials refer, the Society has removed to Rugeley, in Staffordshire, and the house is at length deserted and tenantless.

Such is the history of Canyngton Priory, from the day that the old noble founded the place for his soul's health, through ages of varying fortune, down to other and far worse times, when, under a hollow pretence of opposing superstition, sacrilegious hands took to themselves this and other Houses of God in possession. The scene, indeed, had little of the glories of Taunton or Muchelney, Montacute or Buckland. The income of the House amounted to little more than one-sixth of that even of the least wealthy of those great Communities. But, humble though it was, it did its work among the humanisers of the time. It was a school of graces, and for many ages a centre of all refined and refining influences.

The memory of its varied excellencies will suggest to honest and teachable minds the duty of looking justly, and therefore kindly and respectfully, on its efforts. Within the circuit of those grey enclosures, on which, when I last beheld them, the expiring rays of the evening sun were fading amid a silence and repose that deepened every moment, was a little world, far in advance of the great one outside, where earnest, truthful, and loving hearts were prompting hands to do their best towards the solace and enlightenment of all around. If an occasional cloud passed over and darkened for a few moments the sky, it only made more conspicuous the brightness which was its ordinary atmosphere. There human life went on, accompanied by much that raised and glorified it almost above humanity. In purity and truth the owners lived, and in faith and patience they laboured. And most happily for us—it is indeed one of the encouraging signs of the age—we are again beginning to appreciate the value of such an influence. We are again beginning to think that Woman is never greater, never nobler, never lovelier, than when employed in the Great Master's work, and aiding her sisters in the way to heaven. Mediæval times had, in this point of view, an immense advantage over ourselves, which it is short-sighted and unworthy of us to overlook or disparage. Woman then found in countless instances that on which she might lavish the fondness of her boundless heart—that which she might love without weakness, shame, or sin—that on which all her ardent nature might pour itself out in the self-sacrificing devotion and unhesitating affection of which God has so blessedly made her capable. The writer is one who is of opinion, and he fears not to avow it, that the importance of this influence on the world at large cannot possibly be

overrated; and that much whereof we most bitterly complain, and which is most disgraceful to us as Christian men, would stand its best, perhaps its only, chance of removal by such gracious instrumentality. A whole world of devoted aid would thus be given to us, from which in our pride and conceit we have too long turned away, and, it may well be added, have obtained our reward in the misery and degradation of multitudes. With the revival of Woman's employment in sacred things we shall turn over a new leaf in our country's history, and our eyes will be gladdened, with a joy that shall be blighted by no after sorrow, as they rest upon a fairer, a happier, and a holier page.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

[From Bp. Drokenesford's Register, f. lxvij^{b}.]

Absoluc'o d'ni Joh'is de M'iet.

Me^{d} q'd d'ns absoluit d'nm Joh'm de Meriet milit' a sentencia ex'cois quam in c^{r}rit occ'one exent'ac'onis vx'is sue defuncte. iniuncta s' penitencia p' mod'o culpe salutari & cor vx' sue cu' corpore assignauit fore tumuland'. p' l'ras Berengarii Ep'i Tusculani d'ni pp^{e} penitenciarij apud Woky v. kal'n April' anno d'ni m^{o}. ccc^{mo}. xiiij^{o}. Consecr' n're Quinto.

No. II.

[From Bp. Drokenesford's Register, f. cxlixb.]

Memorand' q'd d'ns scripsit Priorisse & monialib'. dom' de Canynton sue dioc' q'd no' obstante inhibic'one eis f'ca gen'alit' recipiant d'nam Dyonis' Peu'el ad p'hendinand' in d'ca domo su'ptib' cu' suis p'p'is & ad voluntatem d'ni. S'b dat' apud Kyngesbiri viij k'ln Apl' anno d'ni m^{o} ccc^{mo} xiij^{o}. Cons' v^{o} sue q'nto.

No. III.

[From Bp. Drokenesford's Register, f. lxxiijb.]

L'ra dir'ta p'orisse & con'tui de Cani'gton p' p'hendinaco'e mulier'.

J. p'm' &c. dil'cis filiab' d'nab' p'orisse & con. de Cani'gton salt'. P'cib' q^or'd' amicor' n'ror' nobiscu' i' isto solle'pni f'o existenc' annue'tes vt cu' Joh'es ffychet sit ad p'tes aliq^as p'eg^rinat^ans vx' sua & due sorores ip'ius Joh'is bone conu'saco'is vt audiuim' & honeste i' p'oratu v'ro int'im valeant p'hendinare. Hinc est q'd ista vice p'mittim' g^ac'ose q'd d'cas vx' & sorores vsq' ad reditu' d'ci Joh'is p' mora vob'cu' facienda suis p'p^riis su'ptib' potestis admitt'e du'tame' vob' placu'it advent' seu mora modica ear'd'. Adv'tentes insup' q'd p' ear' adventu' seu mora' ullas alias v'l alios ad v'rm p'oratu' p' on'e dom' v're seu suspic'one sinist^a h'ere volum' accessu' quouismodo. Et si contig'it aliqua' muliere' seculare' p' n'ras l'ras moram fac'e vobiscu', nolum' q'd dom' vest^a p' eas , seu moram ear' i' aliquo on'et^r seu religioso q'd absit scandalu paciat^r. Sc'pt' ap'd Wollaui'ton. vj. kaln. Januar'.

No. III.*

[Inq. p.m. 6 Edw. III. (2 nos.) n. 94.]

Inq'sic'o capta cor' Esc' d'ni Reg' apud Som'ton die Jouis in cr^astino s'ci Martini anno regni Regis Edwardi t'cij post conquestu' sexto s'cd'm tenore' & forma' br'is d'ni Regis huic inquisico'i consuti p' sacr'm Joh'is Polker (?) . . . . . Ric'i Horseye Will'i Chaundos Will'i Cordulkent Hugo's Brun Joh'is Stenyngg Joh'is le Riuer (?) Ric'i Dudbrok . . Joh'is . . & Will'mi Norman Qui dicu't p' sacr'm suu' q'd non e' ad dampnu' u' p'iudiciu' dni Reg' seu alior' . . . . Rob'to le fitz Payn q'd ip'e quat'viginti acr' terr' cu' p'tin' in Canynton & Radeweye dare possit & assignare Priorisse . . . . Canynton h'ndu' & tenendu' sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' quemda' capellanu' p' a'ia ip'ius Rob'ti & a'iab' antecessor' . . o'm q' fideliu' defu'ctor' in eccli'a de Cany'gton sing'lis dieb' celeb^aturum inp'petuu' . . . Et dic' q'd terra p'd'ca tenet^r de Rege in capite p' s'uiciu' militare et q'd valet p' an'u' in om'ib' exitib' iux' veru' valore' xxs Et q'd no' e' aliquis medius int' dn'm Rege' & p'd'cm Rob'tum de terra p'd'ca Et q'd diu's' terr' & ten' p'd'co Rob'to . . . . . in Com' Som's' & Dors' q'

tenent^{r} de d'no Rege in capite p' s'uiciu' militare q' valent p'annu' in om'ib' exit' . . . . . Jurati huic inqsico'i sigilla sua apposu'nt.

No. IV.

[From Bp. Ralph's Register, f. cxlix.]

Rauf p' la seoffraunce de dieux Eueske de Baa & de Welles, a nos che's filles en dieux. . . . P'oresse & Couent de Kanyngton oue la beneson dieu & la n're salutz. Purceo nous auoms graunte. come en nous est. a nos che's en dieu Joh^{a}ne Wason & Maud Poer. quelles oue deus dammoiselles. p' assent & volente de vous puissent demorer & sojourner (?) en vost^{e} maisone de Kanyngton. tanq' la Pask p'cheyn. a vener. issint q' lour demeore & sojourn ne soit a vous ne au dite maisone de rien damagouse p'iudiciele ou deshoneste volomps q' si ensi soit les dites Joh^{a}ne & Maud oue ses deus damoiseles reteniez a demorer & sojourner en v're maisone. en la fourme susdeite. A dieux q' touz iours vous doigne grace de bien faire. Don' a Banewelle. le. xiiij. Jour Octobre.

No. IV.*

[Abstract of Reg, Rad. ccclxxxxvijb, ccclxxxxviij, ccclxxxxviijb. MS. Harl. 6965, p. 243, 244.]

Comperta in visitaco'e Priorisse & monialiu' de Kanyngton. Queda' monialis de incontinentia sua increpata p' Priorissam, ut verbis suis utamur, dixit pro tantis excessibus se nolle semel dicere Mea culpa, sed eadem virago effecta contra Priorissam & alias sorores premissa detestantes, quando eam increpant, se velle cu' cultell' & alijs armis seviciam virilem in easde' exercere graviter comminatur. Et alia monialis —— concubitui assueta, habens in utero —— postmodu' edidit suu' partu'. —— Ordinamus q'd d'ca (Johanna Trimelet) p' annu' continuum in una domo honesta infra scitum clausuram mon' v'ri maneat interclusa, secunda tertia & sexta feria jejunet in pane & aqua, suos calores macerans juveniles, & in alijs diebus

quibuscunq' p' d'cum tempus panem potagium & cervisiam pro suo victu tantummodo precipimus ministrari. —— Extitit etiam in d'ca visitac'oe detectu' d'cam priorissa' 4 mulieres pro quaru' qualibet pro 20 libr. in sororem d'ce domus recepisse, incidens ma^te in symoniacam pravitatem ad quam cetera crimina nichil extimantur. —— Rigorem juris sub mansuetudine temp'antes, tibi (Priorissa) duas de sororibus tuis discret' & in temp'alibus circumspectas decernimus in administraco'e temp'alium d'ce domus adjungend' , sine quaru' consilio & assensu earu' nihil facias, —— &c.

No. V.

[Pat. 27 Edw. III. p. 3. m. 1.]

P' Priorissa & Conuentu de Canyngton' — R' om'ib' ad quos &c' salt'm Licet &c de gr'a tamen n'ra sp'ali– —— concessim' & licenciam dedim' p'nob' & heredib' n'ris quantu' in nob' est dil'co & fideli n'ro Joh'i de Chidiok' & Rob'to de Sambourn' q'd ip'i duodecim denaratas reddit' cu' p'tin' in Whytherigg' in Com' Deuon' & aduocac'oem eccl'ie eiusdem ville que de nob' non tenent^r in capite vt dicit^r, dare possint & assignare dilc'is nob' in X'po Priorisse & Conuentui de Canyngton' h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis imppetuu'. Et eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e redditu' p'dc'm cum p'tin' & aduocaco'em p'd'cam a p'fatis Joh'e & Rob'to recip'e, & eccli'am illam appropriare, & eam sic appropriatam in p'prios vsus simul cum redditu p'd'co tenere possint sibi & successorib' suis p'd'cis impetuu', tenore p'senciu' similit' licenciam dedim' sp'alem, statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes q'd &c —— seu grauent^r. Saluis tamen capitalib' &c. —— consuetis. T. R. apud Turrim London'. xxiiij. die Januar'. p'br'e de p'uato sig'.

No. VI.

[Inq. p.m. 44 Edw. III. (1. nrs.) n. 45.]

Inquis' capt' apud Ilmynstre in Com' Som's' coram Will'mo Cheyne Esc' d'ni Regis in eod'm Com' die martis

p'x' post f'm s'ce Margarete anno regni Reg' Edwardi t'cij a conq' quadragesimo quarto virtute br'is d'ni Regis huic inquis' consuti p' sacr'm Ade Swyf Will'i Hucker Will'i Moure Ric'i Cook Will'i Walround Will'i Dounh^{a}m Will'i Sherf' Rob'ti Hare Thome Deme Laur' Wyly Rob'ti Dany & Thome Ansty qui dic' sup' scr'm suu' q'd Rog' Mounfort vtlag' nulla tenuit t'r' seu ten' in d'nico suo vt de feodo in com' pd'co die p'mulgac'onis vtlagarie sue seu postea de Rege in capite uel de aliquo alio die quo obijt set tamen tenuit vnu' corrodiu' ad t'm vite sue ex concessio'e Priorisse de Canyngton' apud Canyngton' quod val' p' annu' xls quod quide' corrodiu' vicecomites Som's' qui p' temp'e fuerint ad opus d'ni Reg' receperunt Et q'd id'm Rog' obijt in f'o corp'is X'pi anno d'ni Reg' nu'c xlij^{do} Et q'd null' he's ip'e Rog' h'uit p' ut istud requirit. In cuj' rei testio'm p'd'ci Jur' sigill' sua apposuer' Dat' loco die & anno sup^{a}d'cis.

No. VII.

[Pat. 5 Ric. II. p. 2. m. 12.]

D' licencia dandi ad manu' mortuam.

R' om'ib' ad quos &c. Salt'm Licet &c. tamen pro viginti marcis quas dile'a nob' in X'po Priorissa de Canyngton nob' soluit in hanap'io n'ro concessimus & licenciam dedimus p' nob' & heredib' n'ris quantum in nob' est Mag'ro Rob'to Crosse p'sone eccl'ie de Spaxton' q'd ip'e sex mesuagia centum & nouem acras t're decem & octo acras p^{a}ti cum p'tin' in Poulet dare possit & assignare p'fate Priorisse & Conuentui eiusdem loci h'end' & tenend' sibi & ear' successorib' ad inueniend' duos cereos vocatos Torches competentes & honestos, vnum videlicet ad dext'um cornu & vnum ad sinistrum cornu sum'i altaris in d'co Prioratu p' tempus & a tempore consecrac'ois corporis X'pi singulis dieb' ad missam de die in honore d'ci corporis vsq'ad finalem p'cepc'oem eiusdem corporis continue ardentes imp'p'm. Et eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e d'ca mesuagia t'ram & pratum cum p'tin' a p'fato Mag'ro Rob'to recip'e possint & tenere sibi & ear' successorib' ad inueniend' d'cos cereos in forma p'd'ca ardentes imp'p'm sicut p'd'cm est, tenore p'sencium similit' licenciam dedimus sp'alem

statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes q'd &c. —— seu g^{a}uent'. Saluis &c —— consuetis. In cuius &c. T. R. apud Westm' xvj die Junij.

No. VIII.

[Memorand. Scacc. 1 Hen. V., m. xiiij.]

Adhuc com'ia de t'mi'o sc'e Trinitatis anno s^{c}'do Regis Henrici Quinti
Adhuc Recorda.

Som's'

D' Priorissa de Canyngton p'munienda ad ostendend' quare ip'a de c'tis t'ris & tenementis in Pederdam & Combewyssh p' subtracc'one divini s'vicii d'no Regi computare non deb'.

Comp'tum est p' quandam Inquisi-co'em captam apud Stokvrcy die lune in c^{a}stino s'ce Trinitatis anno regni Regis Henrici quarti nup' Regis Angl' post conquestum t'ciodecimo coram Rob'to Veele tunc Esc' d'ci nup' Regis in Com' Som's' virtute officij sui q'd d'ns de Coursy quondam dedit Priorisse de Canyngton & sucessorib' suis c'ta t'ras tenementa prata pascuas boscum & decimas garbar' & minutas decimas residuas in Pederdam iuxta Combewyche & in Combewyche ad inueniend' quendam capellanu' idoneu' divina celebrantem imp'p'm ad orand' p' animab' Regum Anglie & Successor' suor' videl't in capella s'ci Leonardi apud Combewyche qual't alt'a die d'nica & quol't alt'o duplici festo p' annu' & in capella S'ci Jacobi apud Pederdam p'd'cam qual't alt'a die d'nica & quol't alt'o duplici festo p' annu' et q'd p'd'ca Priorissa ad inueniend' huiusmodi capellanu' celebrantem in d'ca capella S'ci Jacobi apud Pederdam cessauit & se retraxit p' quinq' annos iam elapsos p'x' ante capc'oem d'ce Inquisic'ois & q'd t're ten' prata pascua boscus & decime p'd'ca in Pederdam val' p' annu' quatuor marcas. Et in Combewyche val' p' annu' x marc'. Et q'd Johanna nunc Priorissa de Canyngton exitus & p'ficua inde p'cepit & p' idem tempus h'uit usq' diem capco'is Inquisic'ois p'd'ce vnde eadem Priorissa d'no Regi est responsura. Sup' quo concordatu' est int' Barones q'd p'd'ca Priorissa de Canyngton

p'muniat^{r} p' br'e de Scire fac' essend' hic ad ostendend' & p'ponend' si quid p' se h'eat vel dic'e sciat quare ip'a de exit' & p'ficuis d'cor' t'rar' & ten' prator' pascuar' boscor' decimar' garbar' & minutar' decimar' residuar' in Pederdam iuxta Combewyche & in Combewyche cu' p'tin' in Com' p'd'co a tempore subtracco'is divini s'uicii p'd'ci ib'm hucusq' d'no Regi computare respondere & satisfac'e non deb'. Et p' s' vic' Som's' q'd p' p'bos &c. scire fac' &c. Ita &c. a die S'ci Mich'is in XV dies ad ostendend' &c. Ad quem diem vic' non retorn' br'e. I'o p's' ei sicut alias &c. Ita &c. In octab' S'ci Martini Ante quem diem p'dca Priorissa ven' p' Ric'm Hukelegh' attorn' suu' Et dicit q'd ex quo in p'd'ca Inquis' non est comp'tum quale nomen p'd'eus d'ns de Cursy h'uit nec que t're & ten' seu decime dat' fuerunt p'dict' p'decessori d'ce Priorisse & successor' suis nec q'd p'd'ca t're ten' & decime dat' fuerunt ante statutu' vel' post statutu' de t'ris & ten^{t} ad manu' mortuam non ponend' editu' nec q'd d'ns Rex qui nunc est nec p'genitor' sui fuerunt fundatores eccl'ie sive prioratus de Canyngton p'dict' nec q'd idem d'ns Rex qui nunc est aut aliquis p'genitor' suor' dedit t'ras ten' & decimas p'dict' aut aliqua alia t'ras seu ten' p'd'ce Priorisse que nunc est aut alicui p'decessar' suar' Priorissar' eccl'ie sive prioratus p'd'car' vnde non intendit q'd d'ns Rex ip'am Priorissam inde velit impetire &c. et petit exon'ari v'sus d'nm Regem de exit' t'rar' & ten' p'd'cor' in d'ca Inquisic'oe specificat' Et quia videt^{r} Baronib' huj' sc^{a}cii q'd d'ca Inquis' non est sufficiens in lege ad ponend' d'cam Priorissam que nu'c est ad respondend' d'no Regi de t'ris & ten' & decimis p'd'cis nec ad seisiendu' t'ras & ten' & decimas p'd'ca in manu' d'ni Regis seu on'and' d'cam Priorissam de exit' eor'dem t'rar' & ten' Ideo considerat' est p' eosdem Barones q'd p'd'ca Priorissa eat inde sine die ob d'cas insufficiencias Inquisico'is p'd'ce.

No. IX.

[From Card. Pole's Pension-Book, f. xxix^{no}. Off. Augment.]

Cannyngton nup' Priorat' } Ffeod' { Thome Hache capitl' sen^{li} tocius nup' por' p'd' p' scriptu' abb'is et conven' } xx^{s}

No. X.

[Off. Augment. Miscell. Voll., n. 244, n. 110.]

Rex om'ibus ad quos &c. salt'm. Cum nuper Prioratus de Cannyngton in Com' nr'o Som's' auctoritate parliamenti iam suppressus et dissolutus existit vnde quedam Cecilia Verney tempore dissoluco'is illius &. diu antea Priorissa inde fuit Nos volentes r'onabilem annualem penco'em siue p'moco'em condignam eid'm Cecillie ad victum et exhibico'em suam melius sustinendi p'uideri. Sciatis igit^{r} q'd nos in consideraco'e p'missor' de gra' n'ra sp'iali ac ex c'ta sciencia et mero motu n'ris p' aduisamentu' et consensum Cancellar' & Consilij Curie Augmentac'onu' revenc'onu' Corone n're dedim' et concessim' ac p' p'sentes dam' et concedim' eid'm Cecillie quand^{a}m annuitatem siue annualem penco'em decem marcar' sterlingor'. h'end' gaudend' et annuatim p'cipiend' easdem decem marcas p'fat' Cecillie & assign' suis a tempore dissoluco'is et suppressionis d'ci nup' prioratus ad t'minu' & pro t'mi'o vite ip'ius Cecillie tam p' manus Thesaurarij Curie n're p'd'ce pro tempore existen' de Thesauro n'ro in manibus suis de reuenco'ib' augmentac'onu' Corone n're remanere contingen' q^{a}m p' manus Receptor' p'ticulariu' revenc'onu' p'd'car' de eisdem revenco'ib' ad festa Annu'ciaco'is b'e Marie Virginis & sc'i Mich'is Arch'i p' equales porco'es omi'o soluend'. Eo q'd exp'ssa mencio &c. In cui' rei &c. Test. xx^{mo} die Nouembr' a^{o} xxviij^{uo} h viij^{ui}. Irro^{r}.

No. XI.

[Off. Augment. Miscell. Voll., n. 205, f. 28.]

In declaraco'e siue valor' Terr' & Tent' ib'm De anno R. Henrici viij^{ui} xxviij^{uo} inter al' cont^{r} ut sequit^{r} Videl't.

Priorat'
de Canyngton
in Com' Som's'

Maner'
de
Canyngton
} val' in {
Exit' Terr' dnic' ib'm p' annu' cum xxxiij^{s} viij^{d} de Exit' xxviij acr' prat' sic arent' in gross' lix^{s} de Exit' lix acr' t'r' arabil' & pastur' ad xij^{d} le acr'
} iiij^{ld} xij^{s} viij^{d}

Canyngton Rector' in Com' Som's'	val' in	Decim' Garb' Rector' ib'm cu' p'tin'	
		iij^{s} iiij^{d} archud'de Taunton ex rector' de Canyngton	.. vij^{ld} xv^{s} iij^{d} cu' v^{s} Ep'o sol' Bath &
Wetherige in Com' Deuon'	val' in	Decim' p'dial' cu' al' p'fic' Rector' ib'm	vij^{ld}
Lib' Capell' de Pedilwaldiston in Com' Dors'	val' in	Quad^{am} porc' decim' Garb' lane & al'	xl^{s} cum iiij libr' Cere deliband' priori Eccl'ie X'pi in Com' Dors'.

Sm^{a} xxj^{ld} vij^{s} xj^{d}
Ex^{r} p' Will'm Turno^{r} Audit' ib'm.

No. XII.

[From the Ministers' Accounts, 27-28 Hen. VIII. Off. Augment.]

(1.) Sm^{a} Tot'lis Re^{te} xxxix^{ld} xij^{s} xj^{d} de quib' exon^{r} hic de xvij^{li} xv^{s} v^{d} ob' de ffirm' o'im p'miss' p' prima med' huius anni Eo q'd fuer' in man' & cultur' Cecilie Verney nup' prioriss' ib'm ad vsum et necc' sustent' hospic' s' p' idem tempus. Et debet xxj^{ld} xvij^{s} v^{d} ob'. De quib' allo^{r} ei de xliij^{s} iiij^{d} p' penc' & com'ensal' vicar' ib'm celebrant' & administrant' cum xxxvj^{s} viij^{d} p' penc' s' p' vno q're anni finit' ad ff'm S'ci Mich'is Arch'i d'co anno xxviij^{o} iux^{a} ratam vij^{ld} vj^{s} viij^{d} p' annu' et cu' vj^{s} viij^{d} p' com'ens' s' a temp'e dissoluc' priorat' ib'm hoc est a xxiij^{cia} die Sept' vsq' d'cm ff'm S'ci Mich'is tunc p'xim' sequen' scil't p' spac' iiij^{or} septim' iux^{a} rata' xx^{d} p' qual't septim'. Et eidem xvij^{s} iiij^{d} p' vad' & com'ens' vnius prisbit'i celebrant' apud Capell' de Comage infra p'och' de Cannyngton p'd'ca p' consi'li q're anni finit' ad p'd' ff'm S'ci Mich'is Arch'i cu' xiij^{s} iiij^{d} p' vad' s' p' id'm tempus iux^{a} rat' liij^{s} iiij^{d} p' annu' ——— et cum iiij^{s} p'

com'ens' s' p' d'cis iiij septim' iux^{a} rat' xij^{d} p' qual't septim' ——— Et lib'auit Thome Arundell mi^{ti} Rec' Gen'al' de exit' ffirm' p'd' viij^{ld} xiiij^{s} ix^{d} ob. Et deb't x^{ld} ij^{s}.

(2.) Sm^{a} Alloc' p'dict' xxx^{s} v^{d} Et deb't xlj^{ld} iiij^{s} j^{d} D' quib' exo^{r} hic de xix^{ld} xviij^{s} iij^{d} ob'. Vt de tot' Denar' p' p'd'cam Cecilia' Verney nup' prioriss' ib'm de Exit' Offic' p'd'ci p' prima me^{te} huius anni ad vsum hospic' s' recept' & expendit' in eod'm hospicio ante primu' aduent' Com'iss' d'ni R' illuc q^{d} erat xxvj^{to} die Maij d'co anno xxviij^{uo} ——————— Et on'at^{r} in comp'o d'ce prioriss' de vj^{ld} x^{s} j^{d} de consi'lib' denar' p' ip'am re^{t} de Exit' eiusd'm Offic' a d'co xxvj^{to} die Maij vsq' tempus dissoluc' d'ci priorat' q' erat xxiij^{o} die Septembr' eod'm anno scil't p' spaciu' xvij septiman' ex recognic' s' in libro re^{te} s' de eod'm temp'e ——————— Et lib'auit Thome Arundell mi^{ti}. Rec' d'ci d'ni R' ib'm de Exit' ffirme p'd'ce ——————— x^{ld} xviij^{s} v^{d} Et debet lxxvij^{s} iij^{d} ob'.

No. XIII.

[Abstract of Orig. 30 Hen. VIII. p. 2. r. ccxxxi.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Sciatis q'd nos de gra' ——————— necnon in consideraco'e boni veri & fidelis s'uicij quod dil'cus s'uiens n'r Edwardus Rogers ante hec tempora nob' fecit dedim' & concessim' &c eidem Edwardo totam domu' & scitum nup' Prioratus de Cannyngton in Com' n'ro Som's' auctoritate parliamenti supp'ssi & dissoluti ac totam eccl'iam campanile & cimitoriu' eiusdem nup' Prioratus. Necnon om'ia mesuag' domos edificia orrea stabula columbaria ortos pom'ia gardina t'ram & solum n'ra tam infra q^{a}m ext^{a} ac iuxta seu p'pe scitum septum ambitum circuitum & p'cinctum eiusdem nup' Prioratus exist' ac totum man'ium n'rm de Cannyngton' & totam Rectoriam n'ram de Cannyngton' ac no'iac'oem & p'sentat' ad vicariam de Cannyngton' p'd'ca quandocumq' vacau'it cum eor' iurib' membris & p'tin' vniu'sis ——— ac om'ia mesuagia t'ras ten' molendina p^{a}ta pascuas pasturas &c &c ——————— p'ficua emolumenta n'ra quecumq' tam sp'ualia q^{a}m temporalia cuiuscumq' sint gen'is ——— situat' iacen' vel existen' in Cannyngton' Powlett Stowey

& Ffedyng in d'co Com' Som's' seu alibi vbicumq' eisdem man'io &c ——— p'tinen' —— adeo plene & integre &c ——— —— Que quidem scitus man'iu' Rectoria &c sunt clari annui valoris quadraginta quinq' librar' octo solidor' & decem denarior'. H'end' tenend' &c p'fato Edwardo Rogers & hered' masculis de corpore suo legittime p'creatis Tenend' de nob' hered' &c in capite p' s'uiciu' militare videl't p' decimam partem vnius feodi milit' ac p' annualem redditum sexdecim librar' octo solidor' & decem denarior' ad Cur' n'ram Augmentacionu' &c ad festum S'ci Mich'is Arch'i soluend' ——— Et vlt'ius —— concedim' p'fato Edwardo exitus &c a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'ito hucusq' p'uenien' &c. H'end' eid'm Edwardo ex dono n'ro absq' compoto seu aliquo alio p'inde nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris quoquo modo reddend' soluend' vel faciend' Eo q'd exp'ssa mencio &c. In cuius &c. T. R. apud Westm' viij die Maij.

No. XIV.

[Abstract of Orig. 34 Hen. VIII., p. 3, r. xxxii.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Cum nos p' quandam indenturam sub magno sigillo n'ro &c ——— geren ' dat' apud Westm' decimo die Julij anno regni n'ri tricesimo t'cio tradidim' &c —— Joh'i comiti Bathon' totam domu' & scitum nup' domus siue hospitalis S'ci Joh'is de Briggewater in Com' n'ro Som's' tunc dissolut' vna cum domib' edificijs &c infra scitum septum &c d'ce nuper domus &c —— ac vnu' clausum pasture vocatum Le Hundred Acres cum p'tin' continen' p' estimac'oem octuaginta & quatuor acras vnu' aliud clausum pastur' vocatum Smale Crofte cum p'tin continen' p' estimaco'em viginti quinq' acras que om'ia &c ——— vulgarit' nuncupat' Lez Demeane Landes d'ce nup' domus ——— H'end' & tenend' —— p'fato Joh'i Comiti Bathon' & assign' suis a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i tunc p'x' sequen' vsq' ad finem t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti & vnius annor' extunc' p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' Reddend' inde annuatim nob' hered' & succ' n'ris octo libras tres solidos & sex denar' ad festa An'unciaco'is B'e Marie Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i ——— Cumq' eciam nos p' quandam aliam indenturam ——— int' nos ex vna parte &

Joh'em Ogan de hospicio n'ro ex alia parte gerent' dat' vicesimo t'cio die Octobris anno regn' n'ri tricesimo sc'do int' alia tradiderim' concesserim' & ad firmam dimiserim' p'fato Joh'i Ogan grangiam de Barton alias dict' Blakedon' cum p'tin' in Com' p'd'co nup' prioratui de Taunton in Com' n'ro Som's' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' vnacum om'ib' domib' edificijs orreis columbar' ortis pomerijs &c eidem grangie p'tinen' videl't vnu' pratum vocatum Barnehayes continen' p' estimaco'em vnam acram vnu' pratum vocatum Parkemeade continen' p' estimaco'em duas acras ac terram siue pasturam vocatam Oldhayes alias Olde bares continen' p' estimaco'em tres acras vnam pasturam vocatam Le Orcheyarde continen' p' estimaco'em vnam acram ac terram siue pasturam vocatam Fflower continen' p' estimaco'em decem acras ac terram siue pasturam vocatam Le Twentie Acres Close continen' p' estimaco'em viginti acras vnu' clausum t're siue pasture vocat' Barnehayes continen' p' estimaco'em quinq' acras vnu' clausum t're siue pasture vocatum Le Sevenacres Close continen' p' estimaco'em septem acras vnu' clausum t're siue pasture vocatum Woodcrofte continen' p' estimaco'em duodecim acras vnu' clausum t're siue pasture vocatum Laushere iacen' iuxta Spyding continen' p' estimaco'em duodecim acras ac vnu' clausum t're siue pasture continen' p' estimaco'em septem acras de Spryng ac vnam pastur' vocatam Kingesleasse continen' p' estimaco'em tresdecim acras ac vnam acram pasture iuxta Laushere continen' p' estimaco'em vnam acram & vnam pasturam vocat' Le Priours Parke necnon vnam pastur' in Lyng infra po'chiam de Lyng in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' in tenura Thome Blansheflower & Will' Blansheflower ac om'es t'ras in Pytmyster in Com' p'd'co in tenura Ric'i Mylbury ac om'es t'ras in Pytmyster p'dict' in tenura Thome Spryng d'ce grangie spectan' & p'tinen'. Cumq' eciam vlt'ius p' eandem indentur' tradiderim' &c —— p'fato Joh'i Ogan totam Rectoriam & capellam de Corff & Pytmyster in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'co nup' prioratui dudu' spectan' & p'tinen' & om'es & om'imod' decimas garbar' penco'es porco'es ac om'ia alia p'ficua quecunq' eidem Rectorie & Capelle de Corff & Pytmyster seu ear' alt'e ab antiquo spectan' siue p'tinen'. H'end' & tenend' ——— p'fato Joh'i Ogan &c ——— a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i tunc vltimo p'terito vsq' ad finem

t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti & vnius annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend'. Reddend' annuatim nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris p' p'd'ca grangia de Barton alias dict' Blakedon ac p'd'cis t'ris &c ——— centum solidos Et p' p'd'cis decimis & alijs p'ficuis Rector' & Capella de Pytmyster & Corff p'dict' octo libras & septem solid' ad fest' An'unciaco'is B'e Mar' Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vel infra vnum mensem —— soluend' —— Cumq' eciam nos p' quandam aliam indenturam ——————— int' nos ex vna parte & Jacobum Dyer geno'sum ex alia parte gerent' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo nono die Decembr' anno regni n'ri tricesimo primo tradiderim' &c. — p'fato Jacobo Dyer Rectoriam de Trull cum suis iurib' & p'tinen' vniu'sis in Com' n'ro Som's' nup' prioratui de Taunton in eodem Com' dudum spectan' & p'tin' vnacum om'ib' & om'imod' decimis garbar' lane & agnellor' &c ——— except' tamen ——— om'ib' illis decimis garbar' de Hamewoode & Sernehaye p'cell' d'ce Rectorie de Trull que Joh'i Smyth p' copiam Cur' dimittit' H'end' & tenend' Rectoriam p'd'cam &c —a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i tunc vltimo p'terito vsq' ad finem t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti vnius annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' Reddend' inde annuatim nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris octo libras legalis monete Anglie ad ffesta Annunciac'ois B'e Marie Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i &c soluend' ——— Cumq' eciam nos p' quandam aliam indenturam sub sigillo &c int' nos ex vna parte & Joh'em Luttrell de Dunster in Com' Som's' ex alt'a parte geren' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo octauo die Octobr' anno regni n'ri tricesimo primo int' alia tradiderim' &c. p'fato Joh'i Luttrell scitum nup' domus siue prioratus vel celle de Dunster in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' tunc dissolut' &c ac om'ia t'ras &c vocat' Wagland cum p'tin' & vnu' clausum pasture subtus le Conygre &c &c nup' prioratui de Dunster spectan' &c a festo S'ci Mich'is vltimo p't'ito vsq' ad finem t'mini &c viginti & vnius annor'— Reddend' inde annuatim nobis &c septuaginta tres solidos & quatuor denar' ad festa B'e Marie Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i &c soluend' ——— Cumq' eciam ——— Myddelcote ——— Northcote prioratui de Pilton spectan' ——— Le Graye Ffreers iuxta civitatem Exon' &c ——— ——— Sciatis q'd nos p' sum'a noningentar' sexaginta duar' librar' septemdecim solidor' & quatuor denar' legalis

monete Anglie ——— p' dilc'm subditum n'rm Humfr'm Colles gen'osum solut' ——————— dedim' & concessim' &c p'fato Humfr'o Colles reu'co'em o'im & singulor' p'dcor' domus —— Bryggewater—Barton—Corff—Pytmyster—Trull—Dunster—Northcote—Middlecote—Greyffreres—Cathanger in p'och' de Stogursey nup' prioratui de Barliche dudum spectan' ——— necnon om'ia & singul' mesuagia t'ras ten'ta &c in p'ochia de Goodley in Com' n'ro Deuon' ac nup' prioratui de Cannyngton in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' Necnon——scitum prioratus de Bathe ——— Lyncombe Wydcome &c — Combe — Cote — Syon in Com' Midd' — Martok — London — Dam' &c p'fato Humfr'o Colles om'es illos boscos n'ros in Priours Parke spersim crescen' & continen' p' estimaco'em viginti acras in p'ochia de Pytmyster Corff Trull & Orcharde p'dict' d'co monast'io de Taunton dudum spectan' ——— Necnon totum illum boscum n'rm vocatum Ffoxegrove continen' p' estimaco'em decem acras in p'ochia de Dunster ——— Aceciam totum illum boscum n'rm vocatum Cathanger Grove continen' p' estimaco'em quatuor acras & dimid' in p'ochia de Stogursey et prioratui de Barliche dudum spectan' —— Necnon totum illum boscum siue grovam n'ram vocatam Le Parke continen' p' estimaco'em decem acras in Bromefelde in p'ochia de Estbuckelande nup' prioratui de Pilton dudum spectan' ——— Aceciam totam illam copiciam bosci n'ri vocatam Le Lyttlecops continen' p' estimaco'em sex acras in p'ochia de Estbuckelande nup' prioratui de Pilton dudum spectan' ——————— Dam' eciam p'fato Humfr'o Colles advocaco'es p'sentaco'es &c de Corff Pytmyster & Trull nup' monast'io de Taunton dudum spectan' ——————— Quequidem ten'ta &c prioratui de Barliche spectan' extenduntr ad clar' annuu' valorem quadraginta solidor' ——— prioratui de Cannyngton centum sex solidor' ——— celle de Pilton &c quatuor librar' & vnius obuli ——— Greyfreeres &c quadraginta solidor' ———Tenend' de nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris in capite p' s'uiciu' quadragesime p'tis vnius feodi militis ac reddend' annuatim nob'&c p' Cathanger quatuor solidos ——— p' priorat' Bridgewater &c sexdecim solidos & quatuor denar' & vnu' quadrantem ——— p' mesuagijs &c prioratui de Cannyngton p'tinen' decem solidos & septem denar' & vnu' quadrantem ——— p' grangia de

Barton &c decem solidos ——— p' Rector' & Capella de Corff' & Pytmyster &c sexdecim solidos octo denar' & vnu' obulum ——— p' Trull &c duos solidos & octo denar' ——— p' Dunster &c septem solidos & quatuor denar' ——— p' Estbuckelande octo solidos & vnu' quadrantem ——— p' Exon' quatuor solidos ——— p' Bathe octo solidos & quatuor denar' ——— p' Martok sex solidos vnu' denar' vnu' obulum & vnu' quadrantem ——— p' London duodecim solidos —— ad Cur' n'ram Augment' ad festum S'ci Mich'is Archi singulis annis soluend' ——— Et vlt'ius acquietabim' &c. Humfr'o Colles hered' &c de om'ib' corrodijs redditib' feod' annuitatib' &c. p'terq^{a}m de sep'alib' redditib' &c nob' res'uat' ac p'terq^{a}m de sex libris tresdecim solidis & quatuor denarijs annuatim solutis capellano divina celebranda [celebranti] in Eccl'ia de Trull p'dict' p' stipendio suo ——————— Et ult'ius dam' p'fato Humfr'o Colles om'ia exitus &c a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p'terito hucusq' p'uenien' ——— Acceciam volum' & concedim' p'fato Humfr'o Colles q'd h'eat has l'ras patentes &c absq' fine seu feodo magno vel p'uo ——— ——— In cuius rei &c T. R. apud Westm' xvj die Marcij.

No. XV.

[Abstract of Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 6, r. xx.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. sal'tm. Cum nos p' l'ras n'ras patentes sub magno sigillo Cur' Augment' ———— sigillat' geren' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo die Maij anno regni n'ri vicesimo octauo ——— tradiderim' concesserim' & ad firmam dimiserim' dil'co nob' Edwardo Rogers gen'oso totam illam Rectoriam n'ram de Wytherygge in Com' n'ro Deuon' nup' prioratui de Cannyngton' in Com' n'ro Som's' modo dissolut' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' Acetiam om'ia & singula decimas garbar' feni agnor' oblacionu' p'fic' & emolument' quor'cumq' d'ce Rectorie p'tinen' siue spectan' H'end' & tenend' p'd'cam Rectoriam decimas &c. p'fato Edwardo Rogers & assignat' suis p' t'mino viginti vnius annor' Reddend' inde annuatim nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris septem libras legalis monete Angl' ———— Sciatis q'd nos p' sum'a trescentar' vnius librar' & septem solidor'

ad manus Thesaurar' &c. p' dil'cos nob' Georgiu' Heydon gen'osum & Hugonem Stucley armig'um solut' ——— dedim' & concessim' —— p'fato Georgio & Hugoni reu'sionem —— tocius d'ce Rectorie de Wytherygge in d'co Com' n'ro Deuon' & o'im & singulor' decimar' &c. d'ce Rectorie p'tinen' siue spectan'. Necnon dam' & concedim' eidem Georgio Heydon & Hugoni Stucley totum domu' & scitum nuncupat' Lez Grayfreres infra Lewes in Com' Sussex —— Necnon om'ia illa tria cotagia siue ten'ta n'ra cum suis p'tinen' iacen' & existen' in Wytherygge p'dict' in d'co Com' n'ro Deuon' dc'o nup' prioratui de Cannington' in Com' n'ro Som's' modo' dissolut' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' —— Ac eciam aduocaco'em donaco'em &c. vicarie & eccl'ie de Wytherygge p'dict' — Necnon mesuagiu' in Rollesclyff in parochia de Brodeclyst alias Brodeclyff nup' Prioratui S'ci Nich'i Exon' —— spectan'——— Ac totum illud mesuagiu' n'r'm vocat' Saltmayde in parochia de Clyff S'ci Georgij in Com' n'ro Deuon' nup' Prioratui S'ci Nich'i Exon' dudum spectan' &c. ——————— Exceptis om'ib' alijs aduocac'oib' &c — eciam om'ib' & singulis campanis plumbo campanar' metall' ferro eccl'ia campanile capellis claustr' & dortur' &c. —— Que quidem domus siue scitus nuncupat' Lez Grayfreres &c extenduntr ad clarum annuu' valorem sexdecim solidor' & octo denarior'. Ac que quidem Rectoria de Wytherygge ac cet'a p'missa p'cella possessionu' d'ci nup' prioratus de Cannyngton' modo extenduntr ad clarum annuu' valorem nouem librar' duor' solidor' et quatuor' denarior'. Ac que quidem mesuagia &c. prioratus S'ci Nich'i Exon' modo extenduntr ad clarum annuu' valorem quatuor librar' tresdecim solidor' & quatuor denarior' ——— Tenend' de nobis hered' & successorib' n'ris in capite p' s'uiciu' vicesime partis vnius feodi militis. Ac reddend' inde annuatim nob' &c de & pro Grayfreres viginti denarios. Et de & pro Rectoria de Wytherygge & trib' cotagijs — octodecim solidos & tres denarios. Et de & pro mesuagio &c. S'ci Nich'i Exon' nouem solidos' & quatuor denarios' legal' mon' Angl' ad Cur' n'ram Augmentacionu' &c. ad festum S'ci Mich'is Arch'i singulis annis soluend' —— Et vlt'ius dam' &c. Georgio Heydon & Hugoni Stucley om'ia exitus redditus &c. a ffesto S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'ito hucusq' p'ueniend' &c. Volum' &c. q'd h'eant has l'ras n'ras

patentes sub magno sigillo —— absq' fine seu feod' magno vel paruo reddend' vel soluend' &c. In cuius rei &c. T. R. apud Westm'. xiiij die Junij.

No. XVI.

[Abstract of Orig. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 3, r. ix.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Cum nos p' l'ras paten' sub magno sigillo n'ro Angl' confect' geren' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo primo die Ffebruarij anno regni n'ri tricesimo sc'do —— dederim' & concesserim' Edwardo Rogers man'ium de Radway Ffytzpayn cum suis membris &c —— nup' p'cell' possessionu' Henrici nup' marchionis Exon' de alt' p'dico'e attinct' —— h'end' & tenend' p'fat' Edwardo Rogers p' t'mino vite sue ——— Cumq' eciam nos p' quasdam alias l'ras n'ras paten' — quar' dat' fuit apud Westm' decimo septimo die Marcij anno regni n'ri tricesimo sc'do — concesserim' &c p'fat' Edwardo tot' hundred' n'rm de Cannyngton' cum p'tin' in Com' Som's' ac om'ia & om'imod' reddit' &c. —— que om'ia & singula nup' antea fuerunt p'cell' t'rar' &c. Henrici nup' marchionis Exon' attinct' ——— h'end' &c. p'fat' Edwardo Rogers execut' & assign' suis a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'ito — vsq' ad finem & terminu' viginti & vnius annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' reddendo inde annuatim nobis &c. septem libras quinq' solidos vnu' obulum & vnu' quadrantem ad festum S'ci Mich'is Arch'i tantum ——— Sciatis igit^r^ q'd nos ———— dedim' &c. p'fato Edwardo Rogers tot' dict' man'iu' de Radwaye Ffytzpayne cum suis membris &c. necnon p'dc'm hundr'm n'rm de Cannyngton cum om'ib' & singulis suis p'tin' ——— Que quidem man'iu' de Raddway Ffytzpayne &c. extendunt^r^ ad clar' annuu' valorem viginti sex librar' vndecim denar' & vnius obuli Et quod quidem hundr'm de Cannyngton &c. modo extendunt^r^ ad clar' annuu' valorem septem librar' quinq' solidor' & vnius obuli. H'end' &c. p'dc'm man'ium de Radwaye Ffytzpayne —— & p'dc'm hundr'm n'rm de Cannyngton' cum om'ib' & singulis p'tin' suis —— p'fat' Edwardo Rogers & hered' masculis de corpore suo legittime p'creatis Tenend' de nob' &c. in

capite p' s'uic' vicesime p'tis vnius feod' milit' p' om'ib' s'uicijs — soluend' Et insup' cum nos p' quandam indentur' &c. dat' apud Westm' vicesimo die Marcij anno regni n'ri vicesimo octauo ——— tradiderim' &c p'fato Edwardo Rogers de hospicio n'ro armig' —— lib'am capellam de Pyddelwaldestone in Com' n'ro Dors' nup' prioratui de Cannyngton spectan' &c vna cu' om'ib' decimis oblaco'ib' p'ficuis & emolument' quibuscumq' eidem capelle p'tinen' —— a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'it' vsq' ad finem t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti & vnius annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' reddendo inde annuatim nob' hered' &c quadraginta solid' ad fest' Annunc'ois B'e Marie Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i —— soluend' Nos volentes &c. dam' &c p'fato Edwardo d'cam lib'am capellam de Pyddelwaldestone &c. ——— Que quidem capella &c extendunt' ad clar' annuu' valorem quadragint' solid' H'end' &c p'fato Edwardo Rogers & hered' masculis de corpore suo legittime p'creat' Tenend' nob' &c p' fidelit' tantum in lib'o socagio & non in capite ac reddendo inde annuatim nob' &c quatuor solid' legalis monet' Angl' ad Cur' Augment' &c. ad festum S'ci Mich'is singulis annis soluend' —— Et dam' p'fato Edwardo om'ia reddit' &c a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'ito —— absq' fine seu feod' magno vel p'uo In cuius rei &c. T. R. apud Tychefelde t'cio die Augusti.

ADDITIONS.

Page 12.—At the assizes held at Somerton, on the morrow of the feast of the Ascension, 8 Edward I., 1280, before Solomon de Roff, and his fellows, a case was tried whether Walter, son of John Murstayn, the Prioress of Kanyton, and Hugh le Lyf, had unjustly disseised Lucy de Stures of her free tenement in Canynton, and thereby of sixteen acres of land with appurtenances. The defendants pleaded that the premises referred to were in Orchard and not in Kanyton, and the jury gave an affirmatory verdict. Judgment was accordingly for the defendants.*

At the same assizes, twelve jurors of the Hundred of Canyton presented that certain evil-disposed persons had entered the house of the vicar of Kanyton and murdered him, and that the perpetrators of the act had not been discovered.†

Page 12.—In 1308 a petition was addressed to the Primate, by Henry, vicar of Canyngton, after what would appear to have been an unsuccessful appeal to his Diocesan, against the unjust detention of part of his income by the Prioress and Convent. It set forth that although the said Henry had been canonically appointed to the vicarage, yet the portion assigned to him from the revenues of the Church was so small that he was unable in his excessive poverty to serve the same, or to respond to the Bishop in his dues,

* Rott. de Jur. et Assis. Somers. 8 Edw. I. M. 5, 14 } 1, et M. 5, 14 } 2. m. 41 dors.

† Rott. de Jur., etc., 8 Edw. I. M. 5, 15 } 2. m. 9.

and furnish convenient hospitality to travellers; and that, nevertheless, certain Nuns, to whose House the Church aforesaid was appropriated, were in the habit of unjustly taking, or causing to be taken, some of the profits belonging to him by reason of the said vicarage, to his no small prejudice and grievance, and of that of the vicarage aforesaid, and that he thereupon petitioned for the providing of a fit and proper remedy. Archbishop Wynchelsee in his missive to his brother William, Bishop of Bath and Wells, reminds him that the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn should not be muzzled, but that he who serves the altar should live of the altar, and remits the vicar to him, that, if his complaint were just, he should canonically assign him a sufficient portion, and cause restitution to be made in form of law of the profits alleged to have been taken, lest he himself should be obliged to interfere, and through his deficiency to give the petitioner a helping hand—"ne ob defectum vestri manus nos oporteat apponere adjutrices." The missive was dated at Wengham, on the V. Id., the 9th, of September, in the fourteenth year of his consecration, 1308.*

Page 14.—On the VIII. Id., the 6th, of February, 1313-4, in obedience to a royal writ, a commission of enquiry was issued by Bishop John de Drokenesford to Henry de Schanintone, Archdeacon of Tanton, and Thomas de Dylintone, S.T.P., who were ordered, in his stead and by his authority, to proceed in person to the House of Canynton, to call before them the Nuns of the said House and other persons through whom they believed that the truth might best be known, to make a careful examination of the matter in hand in agreement with the form, force, and effect of the writ aforesaid; to

* Reg. Winchelsee, ff. 24, 24 b.

enjoin also the attendance of Ralph Guffray, of Burenthone, and of Alice his wife, at the said examination, on the day and at the place to be by them assigned. They were further to inform him of their proceedings in a distinct and clear manner, before the feast of S. Matthew the Apostle. The commission was dated at Hynedone, on the day and year named above.*

Page 18, line 21.—The commission was couched in the following terms :—

Vltima co'missio in neg'o de Cany'gton

Joh'es p'missione di'na Bathon' & Wellen' Ep'us dil'cis in x'po filiis Mag's H. de Schanyngton'. Archid'o Tant' Thome de Dillyngton' p'centori Well' Antonio de Bradeneye & Will'o de Lanton' in ecc'ia n'ra Well' Cano'icis ac Ric'o de fford in decretis doctori salt'm gra'm & b'n. Ad exa'inand' el'cco'm f'cam de Matild' de Morton' & ei' p'sona' in Priorissam de Canyngton' n're dioc' vt asserit^{r} el'cca' & ad cognoscend' in d'co el'cco'is neg'o, ac p'cedendu' in eode' cu' co'tinuaco'ne & p'rogac'one dier' iux^{a} for^{a}m ret^{o}actor' in d'co neg'o h'itor', & d'cam el'cconem co'f'manda' seu inf'mandam ac in euentu' de p'sona idonea d'co Monast'io p'uidend' iux^{a} disc^{e}cione' vob' a deo data', & ad faciendu' vlt'ius in d'co el'cconis & p'uisionis neg'o, q'd nat^{r}a ei'dem exigit & req'rit, Vob' co'mittim' vices n'ras cu' coh'cionis cano'ice potestate. Quod si no' om's hiis exequc'dis int'esse pot'itis uel nolu'itis q^{a}tuor tres uel duo v'rm alior' p'sencia n'llaten' exsp^{c}tata, uel absencia excusata, p'missa nich'omi' exequ^{a}t^{r} In cui' rei testimon' Sigillu' n'rm p'sentib^{z} est appens'. Dat' ap'd Kyngesbury xvj. Kal'n Julij Anno d'ni Milli'o CCC^{mo} Septimo decimo Cons' n're Octauo.†

Page 18.—Agnes Baril. Members of the family of Baryl occur repeatedly in the earlier records as holders of property. Roger Baryl, 33 Hen. III. (Ped. Fin. Soms. Hen. III., 28—40, n. 58.) Gilbert Baryl and John Baryl, 5 Edw. I. (Ped. Fin. Soms. Edw. I., 1—20. n. 22.) &c.

* Reg. Drok. f. cxlviij.
† Reg. Drok. f. viij b.

Page 21.—A writ, dated, witness Aymer de Valence, Earl of Penbrock, at Stratford, the 20th of July, 14 Edw. II., 1320, was addressed to Richard de Rodenye, the Escheator, containing the usual enquiries, and commanding him to take the sense of a jury whether licence should be granted to Robert Fitzpagan to give two virgates of land with appurtenances in Canyngton to the Prioress and Sisters, for the maintenance of a Chaplain to celebrate daily in the Priory Church for the souls of the donor, of Robert his father, and of all the faithful departed. The inquest was taken at Canyngton, on the 5th of August following, and the jurors, Roger Pym, Roger de Hachford, John le Someri, Richard Pruet, John ffychet, Gilbert de Halsden, Walter Payn, William de Almenesheye, John atte Churcheheye, Roger de Colhampton, Philip Bareil, and John Gurneye, returned on oath that no harm would accrue to the King from the grant of the solicited licence, unless the aforesaid Robert should die and leave a minor for his heir, when the King would lose the custody of the lands aforesaid; that the property was held in chief as parcel of the manor of Stokecursy, which, together with Radeweye, Robert held of the King in chief, by a service of one Knight's fee; that the land was worth xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d} a year; that there remained besides to the said Robert the manor of Stokecursy with Radeweye, in the County of Somerset, held of the King as aforesaid, worth in all issues fifty pounds a year; the manor of Chedene, held in chief by a service of one Knight's fee, worth in all issues xx^{li}; the manors of Alwynesheye, Cherlton, Cary, and Breghampton, in Somerset, similarly held by a service of two Knight's fees, and worth lx^{li} a year; and the manors of Chelberewe, Mershwode, Wroxhale, and Worth, in the County of Dorset, similarly held by Knight service, and worth

iiij^{xxli} a year; and that these lands were sufficient for enabling the said Robert to meet all the various burdens and demands, so that no harm would ensue from the grant of the licence.* I do not find, however, that the issue was favourable. The intention of the donor does not appear to have been carried into effect until twelve years afterwards, when land was given by him for a similar purpose, as is fully related at page 23.

Page 22.—At the assizes held at Somerton, on Wednesday next after the feast of S. Peter ad Vincula, 1 Edw. III., or the 5th of August, 1327, a plea of assize of novel disseisin was laid by Joan, widow of William le ffol, of Northovere, against Philip, son of the aforesaid William, and Emma his wife, Peter de Ralegh, John Godhale, sen., John Godhale, chaplain, Philip, William, Walter, and Thomas Godhale, William, vicar of Canyngton, Adam de Trente, Alexander le Voghel, John Bisshop, John le Knyght, Philip Corbyn, and Richard Caylleweyand Juliana his wife.† The result does not appear.

Page 22.—On the XII. Kal. August, the 21st of July, 1328, Bishop John de Drokenesford, at Banewell, issued a commission to Master Laurence, his official, and Master W. de Hulle, to institute an enquiry in the Priory of Canyngton about the excesses and delinquencies of certain of the Nuns, going out of their House without licence and against the will of the Prioress. They were to write him word as to what they should find to need correction.‡

Page 23.—At the assizes at Cherde, on Monday in the third week in Lent, 5 Edward III., the 4th of March,

* Inq. ad q. d. 14 Edw. II., n. 173. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 94.

† Rot. Assis. Somers. 1 Edw. III., $\frac{N}{18}\,2$ } 1. m. 20 dors.

‡ Reg. Drok. f. cclxxxij b.

1331, a case of the Prioress of Canyngton against Adam de Leghe and Matilda his wife, on a plea of assize of novel disseisin, was adjourned to the assizes at Somerton, on Friday, the morrow of the feast of S. Peter ad Vincula, the 2nd of the following August.*

Page 23.—The Archbishop of Canterbury issued his mandate, dated at Monketon, XII. Kal. Dec., the 20th of November, 1331, that notice of his intended visitation should be given in the Cathedral Churches of Bath and Wells, in all Conventual and Collegiate Churches, and in six of the most important parish Churches in the Diocese. The Bishop's certificate of the publication thereof in the Churches ordered, and among them the Conventual Churches of Taunton, Adthelneye, Canyngton, and Barewe, and the parish Churches of Taunton, Bruggewalter, and Pedyrton, is dated at Evercrich, III. Id., the 11th, of the following month.†

Page 24.—Add to note * MS. Harl. 4120, p. 119.

Page 28.—Prioress Joan was obliged to invoke the aid of the law against Godefrid de Lyf, at the assizes held at Bruggewater, on Monday in the second week in Lent, 15 Edward III., the 5th of March, 1340-1. It appeared by her plaint that the said Godefrid, on Monday next after the feast of the Nativity of the B.V., 14 Edw. III., the 11th of September, 1340, came to Canyton *vi et armis*, and there did take and lead away certain goods and chattels of the Prioress, to wit two horses, of the value of xxx^{s}; and removed grain belonging to the same, found there, namely, wheat, barley, and oats, of the value of xx^{s}; and did other enormities, against the peace, and to the damage of the

* Rot. Assis. Somers. 5 Edw. III., $\frac{N}{19}$ 2. m. 9.

† Reg. Rad. ff. xlij b, xliij, xliij b.

aforesaid of xx^{li}. To all these charges Godefrid pleaded not guilty except as to one horse. And to that count he pleaded that he found him driven within his enclosure, where he ought not to be driven, that for this trespass he had taken him into custody as the law permitted, without any breach of the peace, etc. The Prioress replied that in the place where the horse was taken she had a right to drive cattle to and fro every year, from the gule, the 1st, of August to the feast of the Purification, the 2nd of February. A jury of twelve, elected with the assent of both parties, returned a verdict on oath that Godefrid had taken the horse in question in a place where the Prioress had the right of driving cattle to and fro, against the peace, and to the damage to the plaintiff of half a marc. On the other counts they gave a verdict for the defendant. The judgment was that the Prioress should recover against the aforesaid Godefrid her damages taxed by the jury at half a marc, and that the said Godefrid should be kept in custody until payment. He subsequently made the required satisfaction, with a fine to the King of xl^{d}.*

On the same day Thomas Russel, Robert de Pophull, of Canyton, William de Waldepull, Richard Rys, Walter de Cadesden, John Coc, Adam Wegg, William Crich, Walter Agaceson, Thomas Bore, Henry Roddok, Walter Bore, jun., and Roger Cobbe, were apprehended to answer to William de Swelle, on plea of trespass. The plaintiff by his bill complained that the aforesaid Thomas, Robert, and the rest did on Friday next after the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, 14 Edward III., the 18th of August, 1340, come to Canyngton, in a certain

* Plac. de Jur. et Assis. 15 Edw. III., $\left.\begin{matrix} M \\ 5 \\ 16 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 5. m. 4. dors.

place called Niweclos, and did there break and throw down his fence, fill and stop up his ditches, drive away his waggons and carts, oxen and horses beyond the fence and his meadow, and wear and tread down his grass and pasture, with other enormities, against the public peace, whereby he was damaged to the amount of x^{li}. The defendants pleaded by their attorney that they were the servants of the Prioress of Canyngton ; that the said Prioress and her predecessors time out of mind had common in the place where the said William de Swelle supposed that the said trespass had been done, to drive to and fro her beasts from Canyton to Harefeldmede ; that they had thus come and driven the beasts of the said Prioress, as her servants, without any breach of the peace; and that in respect of the other matters contained in the bill they had committed no trespass. A jury of twelve, elected by assent of the parties, gave a verdict on oath in favour of the defendants on every count, that they had committed no trespass, that the Prioress had the right of common which she asserted, and that the defendants had acted as her servants, and without any breach of the peace. Judgment was accordingly for the defendants.*

Another instance of the hardship which the Priory, in common with many other Religious Houses of small means, had to undergo from the Crown in the shape of the grant of a corrody, is furnished by the presentment of a jury at the assizes held at Bath, on Tuesday in the third week of the same Lent, before Thomas de Berkele and his fellows. They presented that Ralph de Middelneye, the King's Escheator, had entered the Priory of Canyngton in the time of the last vacancy; that he had had of the present Prioress and Convent a corrody for the use and service of

* Ib. m. 4 dors.

Joan de Seintebride, to be held during the whole life of the said Joan; that the corrody was worth, if it should be bought, xx^{li}; that he had done this under colour of his office, and by extortion, and would not otherwise relax his claim; and that so the House aforesaid remained yet charged of the corrody, without any profit to be derived thencefrom, to the grievous injury of the same.* There can be little doubt, however, notwithstanding the evident sympathy of the jury, to each member of which the House was likely to be much endeared, that the Escheator acted simply in accordance with his orders, and that the fault was in the system rather than in the officer who had to carry out its details. A circumstance which added to the injustice of the demand was the fact, that even the poor excuse by which the Crown ordinarily claimed the right of a corrody, namely, that the House was of royal foundation, was in the present case entirely and notoriously opposed to the truth.

Page 28.—On the II. Non., the 4th, of April, 1338, Richard de Blechyngton had licence for one year to confess to William, vicar of Canyngton, as often as opportunity should allow. (Reg. Rad. f. clxxij.)

Page 28.—The Bishop's letter to Avice de Reigners, of confirmation of her election to be Prioress, was as follows :—

Radulphus p'missione diuina Bathon' & Wellen' Ep'us dil'ce in X'po filie Auicie de Reigners moniali Monast'ij de Canyngton' n're dioc', salt'm gr'am & ben'. Examinata elecco'e de p'sona tua in Priorissam de Mon' f'ca def'cus suplentes si qui fuerint in eadem ip'am auc^{a}te n'ra ordinar' confirmam' tibi q' curam regimen &

Confirmacio eleccionis de Canyngton'

*Plac. de Jur. et Assis. 15 Edw. III., $\left.\begin{matrix} M \\ 5 \\ 16 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 5. m. 16.

administraco'em eiusdem Mon' cu' suis Juribz & p'tenenc' vniu'sis, quatenus in nob' est co'mittim' p' p'sentes, Juribz eccl'iar' n'rar' Bath' & Well' ac dignitate n'ra in om'ibz semp' saluis. Dat' ap'd Banewelle, ij. Id. Augusti. Anno d'ni Mill'mo. CCC^mo. quadragesimo t'cio Et n're cons', xiiij^mo.*

Page 29.—The reason given for prompt action is as follows :—

"Cum igit^r fruct' autumpnales p'orat' p'd'ci p'p' vacaco'em diutinam hoc autumpnali tempore sint p' magna p'te consumpti & de vlt'iori consumpco'e timet^r verisimilit' in futur', Nos &c. Dat' apud Banewelle xix Kal'n Septembr'. Anno d'ni MCCCXLIII."†

Page 30.—The following is the text of the Bishop's mandate :—

Mandatum dir^c tu' P'orisse de Kanyngton' de cita'd' om'es moniales de ve'iendo ad visitaco' d'ni

Radulphus p'missione diuina Bathon' & Wellen' Ep'us, dil'ce in x'po filie. Priorisse de Kanyngton n're dioc' salt'm gr' & bn' Quia ex officij n'ri debito die ven'is p'x' post f'm s'ci Luce Evangeli'e p'x' futur' P'oratu' v'rm de Kanyngton' in h'mlitate & mansuetudine d'no annuente p'ponim' visitare, vos p'emptor' citam'. ac p' vos om'es moniales & sorores ac alios qui visitaco'em n'ram subire tenent^r citari volim' & mandam', quat' in domo v'ra Capit'lari. die p'sc'pto. comp'eatis & quel't ear' comp'eat cor' nob' v'l n'ris in hac p'te Co'missar' visitaco'em n'ram humilit' receptur' f'cur' qz vlt'ius & receptur' q'd iuris fu'it & co'sonu' rac'oni De die v° recepco'is p'senciu' & quod in p'missis fec'it' nos v'l n'ros Co'missar' d'cis die & loco una cu' no'ibz & cogna'ibz cu' in quadam cedula certificator' v'ro annecte'da co'sc'pt' distincte & ap'te certificet' L'ris v'ris patentibz h'ntibz har' forma' sigillo v'ro co'muni co'signat' Dat' apud Banewell' viij (?) Id' Octobr' Anno d'ni Mill'mo CCC^mo Q'quagesimo p'mo Et n're cons' vicesimo t'cio.‡

Page 33.—Add to note *, Appendix, No. IV.*

* Reg. Rad. f. cclxxxij.
† Reg. Rad. f. cclxxxij.
‡ Reg. Rad. ff. ccclxxxxiij b, ccclxxxxiiij.

Page 37.—In the account of the Abbat of Athelneye, collector of a subsidy of xvj^{d} in every marc of the income of each benefice, in the 3rd year of Richard II., 1380, among the benefices valued *de novo*, the vicarage of Canyngton is returned as worth at iiij marcs, and the Church of the same as worth x marcs.*

Page 38.—On the 28th of October, 1382, at Lambeth, Archbishop Courteney sent a letter to the Prioress and Convent of Kanyngton, for Agnes Wason to be admitted as a Nun of the same House, in the customary form, at the instance of Sir Peter Courteney, Knt.† A member of the same family had been permitted to sojourn in the House for some months in the year 1336. (Page 28.)

Page 38.—"Exaltation" should be "Invention," and the 17th of Sept., 1394, should be the 6th of May, 1395.

Page 39.—The Prior of Bruton, collector of a subsidy of ij^{s} in the pound of all non-taxed benefices above the value of c^{s} a year, granted to King Henry IV., in the 5th year of his reign, 1404, returned the vicarage of Canyngton as worth viij marcs, and as taxed in x^{s} viij^{d}.‡

Page 39, &c.—The following notices of exemption of the Nuns of Canyngton from the payment of the disme should be added to those given at this and subsequent pages.

By certificates, &c., dated the 17th of May, 1403 (Reg. Bowet, f. xxxiij.); 12th October, 1403 (Reg. Bowet, f. xxvj b.); 6th March, 1412-3 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{27}$.); 12th December, 1414 (Reg. Bubw. f. lxxxix b.); 7th November, 1415 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{30}$ b.); 29th June, 1416 (Reg. Bubw.

* Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{4}$.

† Reg. Courteney, f. 17.

‡ Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{14}$.

f. cxv b.); 2nd January, 1417-8 (Reg. Bubw. f. cxxvij.); 10th January, 1418-9 (Reg. Bubw. f. cxxxviij b.); 1st March, 1418-9 (Reg. Bubw. f. cxliiij. Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{40}$.); 26th December, 1419 (Reg. Bubw. f. clxix. Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{42}$.); 2nd January, 1422-3 (Reg. Bubw. f. clxxxxix.); 6th February, 1436-7 (Reg. Staff. f. cxxj b. Cler. Subs $\frac{4}{67}$.); 5th May, 1438 (Reg. Staff. f. cxlvij b.); 23rd March, 1445-6 (Reg. Bek. f. xxvj. Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{83}$.); 14th May, 1447 (Reg. Bek. f. lxj b.); 5th December, 1449 (Reg. Bek. f. cij b.); 23rd August, 1450 (Reg. Bek. f. cxiiij b.); 11th October, 1468 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{110}$.); 5th April, 1471 (Reg. Still. f. lxxxxj b.); 23rd August, 1472 (Reg. Still. f. lxxxiij b. Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{111}$.); 20th August, 1474 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{113}$.); 10th November, 1478 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{114}$.); 23rd May, 1481 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{115}$.); 16th May, 1484 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{116}$.); 2nd January, 1491-2 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{118}$ b.); 24th January, 1491-2 (Reg. Morton, ff. 68 b.—70 b.); 24th March, 1491-2 (Reg. Morton, f. 74.); 8th May, 1512 (Reg. Hadr. f. c.).

Page 40, line 28.—The jury were John Galampton, Richard Tokyswill, John Corewell, Walter Barell, Walter Caux, Walter Hele, William Lucays, Ralph Perys, Robert Dany, Henry Pencowe, John Pollard, and John Baldhay.*

Page 42.—Add to note *, Escheators' Accounts, Somers. 13—14 Henry IV., n. 12.

Page 42.—By letter, dated at Wells, the 7th of June, 1415, Bishop Bubwith called in the aid of the secular arm

* Escheators' Accounts, Somers. 13—14 Hen. IV., n. 12.

against William Power, alias Schephard, of Canyngton, who had disregarded a sentence of excommunication.*

Page 43.—On the morrow of the Ascension, and afterwards in the octaves of the Holy Trinity, 5 Henry V., 1417, a final concord was passed at Westminster, between Walter Tilly, Esq., Thomas Trowe, Esq., John Corse, vicar of Briggewater, and William Baron, vicar of Canyngton, quer. and Robert Boson, and Joan his wife, def., concerning the manor of Sydenham. For this recognizance Walter and the others gave Robert and Joan aforesaid one hundred marcs of silver.†

Page 44.—On the 29th of November, 1421, Bishop Bubwith wrote to the King for the capture of John Taberer, of Canyngton, excommunicated for forty days past and upwards.‡

Page 47.—The Obituary Roll, described in the History of Mynchin Buckland (Page 76), in behalf of William Ebchestre and John Burnby, Priors of Durham, was carried shortly after the year 1468, the date of the latter ecclesiastic's death, to Canyngton among other Somersetshire Houses. The route of the bearer was from Brygwalter to Canyngton, and from thence to Tauntun.§

Page 48.—In Easter three weeks, 21 Henry VI., 1443, a final concord was passed at Westminster, between Sir John ffortescu, Knt., Walter Rodeney, Esq., Edward Hulle, Esq., John Sayntlo, Esq., John Anstell, Esq., Roger Hosewyfe, clerk, John Chokke, and Richard Chokke, quer., and William Thomas, def., concerning forty-five messuages, nine tofts, four acres of arable land, and one

* Reg. Bubw. f. lxxxxix.
† Ped. Fin. Somers. 1—9 Hen. V., n. 30.
‡ Reg. Bubw. f. clxxxviij.
§ Durham Obit. Rolls, p. 41.

acre of meadow, with appurtenances, in Briggewater, Hunteworthy, and Dunwere. For this recognizance John and the rest gave the aforesaid William fifty marcs of silver.*

Page 49.—A month after Easter, 33 Henry VI., 1455, a final concord was passed at Westminster, between Roger Husewyffe, clerk, and Richard Walshawe, quer., and Alianor Hulle, dau. of Sir John Malet, Knt., def., concerning the manor of Enmere, with appurtenances, and three messuages, three carucates of arable land, twenty acres of meadow, twenty-eight shillings of rent, and the moiety of a mill, with appurtenances, in Enmere, Bromefeld, Baghaye, Milverton, and Durlegh, together with the homages and entire services of Robert Warre, Esq., Alexander Hody, and Walter Haccheford, and their heirs, of all the tenements which they held of the same Alianor in the vills aforesaid.†

Page 52.—Add to note †, Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{107}$.

Page 59.—Prioress Cecilia was daughter of William de Vernai, of Fairfield, by his wife Joan, daughter of William Broughton, Esq., and sister of John de Vernai, and of George, vicar of Wytherygge. The tomb of her father, who died 4 Henry VI., is "in the Vernais' isle in the parish Church of Stoke-Courcy, with an image of an armed man lying thereon."‡

Add to note †, Reg. vac. Kyng, fol. viij.

Page 68.—Add the following to the vicars of Wytheridge :—

Robert de Terry, to whom Pope Alexander IV. granted a licence of plurality, on the ground that his Church of Wirigge, in the Diocese of Exon, hardly exceeded in value

* Ped. Fin. Somers. 12—39 Hen. VI., n. 63.
† Ped. Fin. Somers. 12—39 Hen. VI., n. 103.
‡ Collinson, I., 254.

the sum of xx marcs of silver a year, and provided that neither benefice should suffer from neglect of due supervision. The licence was dated at Naples, the IIII. Id., the 10th, of January, in the first year of his pontificate, 1255.*

Page 69.—Add the following to the more important references to Records illustrating the history of the manor and lay property in general in Canyngton :—Inquis. p. m. 14 Edw. I., n. 173. 14 Edw. II. 6 Edw. III. 17 and 22 Ric. II. Pat. 44 Edw. III., p. 2. m. 7. Claus. 1 Edw. II., m. 4. 9 Hen. V., m. 1. 3 Edw. IV., m. 5 dors. 4 Edw. IV., m. 13 dors. Rott. Assis. 16, 18, 19, Ric. II., N 2 32 1. mm. 75 dors., 79 dors., 85 dors. Plac. de Banc. Pasc. 1 Edw. II., m. 210 dors. Trin. 2 Edw. II., m. 238. Mich. 16 Edw. II., m. 154 dors. Pasc. 16 Edw, II., m. 130 dors. Mich. 17 Edw. II,, m. 153.

Page 76.—In the "Valor" of 1535 the Vicarages of Canyngton and Wytherygge are thus returned :—

CANYNGTON.

John Bonde, vicar there.

The Prioress of the Priory aforesaid, proprietress there	Nothing here in charge, as it is taxed among the possessions of the said Prioress, as there appeareth.	
Value of vicarage per annum in demesne lands .. .. .. iiij^{s}		vij^{li} x^{s} viij^{d}
Pension of the Prioress aforesaid .. .. .. vij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}		
Clear		
The tenth from thence ..		xv^{s} j^{d}†

* Ann. I. Ep. 26. Add. MS. B.M. 15,358. fol. 8.
† Val. Eccl. I. 214.

WYTHERYGGE.

George Verney, vicar there.

Value of vicarage leased to farm to Thomas Heyman, chaplain, Hugh Stukelegh, Esq., and Edward Ford, for a term of five years, beginning at the feast of S. Michael, 24 Henry VIII. [1532]	xxiiij^{li} ij^{s}	
Deduct from this :—		
Paid to the Bishop of Exon, and his successors, for procurations, in common years ..	ij^{s} ij^{d}	xxiij^{li} x^{s} iiij^{d}
Paid to the same Bishop and the Archdeacon and their successors, for sinodals and Cathedral dues, yearly	ij^{s} x^{d}	
Paid to the Archdeacon of Barnistapole and his successors, for procurations, yearly ..	vj^{s} viij^{d}	
Remaining clear.		
The tenth		xlvij^{s} ob'.*

Page 87.—By indenture, dated the 20th of March, 28 Henry VIII., 1536-7, the King demised to Edward Rogers, of the Court, Esq., the House and site of the late Priory of Canyngton, in the County of Somerset, together with all houses, buildings, barns, dovecots, gardens, orchards, land and soil, within the site and precinct of the said late Priory, and all and all kinds of lands, meadows, and pastures following, to the same late Priory belonging or pertaining; viz. twenty-eight acres of meadow, more or less, and fifty-nine acres of arable land and pasture, more or less. Also the Rectory of the parish Church of Canyngton aforesaid,

* Val. Eccl. II., 346.

in the County of Somerset ; and the Rectory of the parish Church of Wetherege, in the County of Devon ; and the Free Chapel of Pedylwaldiston, in the County of Dorset ; to the said late Priory similarly belonging; together with all tithes, oblations, profits and emoluments, whatsoever, to the same pertaining. Excepted and to the King, his heirs and successors, wholly reserved, all large trees and woods on the premises, and the advowsons of the Vicarages of the Churches of Canyngton and Wetherege, and all such buildings within the site and precinct of the said late Priory, which the King might afterwards order to be thrown down and carried away. The property was to be held by the aforesaid lessee and his assigns from the Michaelmas last past, for a term of twenty-one years, and an annual rent of twenty-one pounds, seven shillings, and eleven pence, of lawful money of England; viz.—for the site, meadow, arable, and pasture, four pounds, twelve shillings, and eight pence; for the Rectory of Canyngton seven pounds, fifteen shillings, and three pence; for the Rectory of Wetherege seven pounds, and for the Free Chapel forty shillings; to be paid at Lady Day and Michaelmas, or within one month after each feast, to the Court of Augmentations, in equal portions during the term. The King was to discharge and acquit the lessee of all pensions, portions, annuities, and all other payments; and to repair, sustain, and maintain the buildings of the premises in timber and roofings of tile, lead, and slate, from time to time, as often as should be necessary; and the lessee and his assigns were to support and sustain the roofing of straw and all other necessary repairs except that of timber, &c. aforesaid ; and to have from time to time due and sufficient hedgebote, ffyerbote, ploughbote, and cartebote, of, in, and upon the premises, there and not elsewhere to be yearly expended, during the term.

The lease was dated, at Westminster, on the day above mentioned.*

Page 96.—The Request to purchase the Manor of Raddewaye, worth xxvj^{li} xj^{d} ob. a year, the Hundred of Canyngton, worth vij^{li} v^{s} ob. a year, and the Free Chapel of Pudelwalston, bears date the 16th of June, 37 Henry VIII., 1545, and is signed "Edward Rogers." To the particulars of the value, as already given, the following notes were annexed by the Crown Officers, whose duty it was to inspect the same, and to make suggestions for the guidance of the contracting parties:—

"M^{d} how nere the ſayd Mano^{r} of Radwaye or the ſayd Hundred of Canyngton Do adioyne vnto the King*es* Mageſties Caſtell of Stocurcy whiche ys in that Contrey and p*er*cell of the ſame poſſeſſions Thaudito^{r} knowith not.

Ric Southwell Ex^{r}. p' W. Goodyng Auditor'

Memor^{d}. That the p'miſſes do amounte to the yerely Valew of xxxiij^{li} vj^{s}. Which the King*es* Highnes hath geven vnto Edward Rogers Squer and to the heyres males of his bodye laufully begotten Without anny thing paieng As appereth by a l're ſent vnto me Sir Rychard Southwell ffrom the ryght honorable Syr John Ruſſell Knight Lord Ruſſell Lord pryvie Seal ſubſcrybed by the ſame. bering date the xiijth Daie of Maie in the xxxvijth yere of the Regn of o^{r} moſt Drad ſoverain Lord Henri the eight by the grace of God Kinge of Ingland. ffraunce and Irlande. Defendo^{r} of the ffayth and in erth the Sup'me Hed of the Church of Inglande and Irland."

To this are added the particulars of the Free Chapel of Pudelwalston, in the County of Dorset, valued at xl^{s} a year. After the usual assurances by Matthew Coltehirste, the Auditor, the following note is appended:—"Wherof to be ref'uyd to the Kynge*s* highenes yerly for the xth—

* Miscell. Books, Off. Aug. vol. 209, ff. 65, 65 b.

iiij^{s} And ſo remayneth clere—xxxvj^{s} Which the Kynge*s* highnes of his bountifull goodneſſe ys pleaſed and contented to geave and graunte vnto Edward Rogers eſquier And to theire*s* malez of his Bodye laufullye begotten wthoute enye thing paing for the ſame other then the ſaid xth aboue reſ'ued Edward North."*

Page 98.—Chapels, Chantries, and lands connected with them, in the parish of Canyngton.

1. Chapel of Ichestoke, or Idstock. There was from very ancient times a Chapel of this name. It was annexed to the Church of Chilton, and with it this Chapel of Hydestok was valued in the Taxatio of 1292 at viij marcs. (Tax. Eccl. p. 202.) On the north side of an older structure, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, William Poulet, of Bere, in the hamlet of Ichestoke, built in or about the year 1415 a new Chapel, also dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and founded therein a Chantry, which he endowed with various lands, as already described at pp. 42, 43. Of this Chapel the picturesque ruins still remain, almost buried in the depths of a wood about half way between the Churches of Canyngton and Stoke-Courcy. There are few spots in the County of Somerset of more touching interest, or more calculated to awaken affectionate thoughts of olden days. It was here that the praises of God were sung generation after generation, and holy intercessions were constantly offered up, and counsels of righteousness were imparted, blessing alike the giver and the receiver. Now nothing is audible but the note of the wood-bird, or the distant sounds of country life, making the solemn stillness of the spot more complete and its melancholy more impressive and profound. I have met with the following Incumbents, presented by the successive heads of the founder's family:—

* Parts for Grants, Hen. VIII. Edward Rogers.

Thomas Spreth, 28th June, 1427 ; (Reg. Staff. f. xxxij.) Henry Yurde, 18th Oct., 1430; (Reg. Staff. f. lviij.) David Harrys, 13th Dec., 1432 ; (Reg. Staff. f. lxxxj.) He was still there in 1449, (Reg. Bek. f. cv b.) and in 1461, (Cart. Antiq.) Thomas Hylle, 1468 ; (Reg. Still. f. xxiij.) David Harlow, ——— ; Thomas Quyntyn, 2nd April, 1472 ; (Reg. Still. f. xxxv.) John Combeshede, 13th Aug., 1474; (Reg. Still. f. xlvij.) John Cutler, 2nd Dec., 1485 ; (Reg. Still. f. cxxx.) Robert Macy, 7th Aug., 1492 ; (Reg. Fox, f. iij.) John Weye, ——— ; William Fynymore, 30th Sept., 1499 ; (Reg. King, f. xlviij.) John Hulle, 13th April, 1504. (Reg. vac. King, f. viij. Reg. Warham, f. cxcvij.) He paid for his institution, through Mr. John Bekham, the sum of vj^{s} viij^{d}. (Reg. Warham, f. ccij b.) Thomas Shakyll, 17th May, 1524. (Reg. Clerke, f. x.)

In 1426 the Chantry of Idestoke was valued at xl^{s} ; (Reg. Staff. f. ix.) and in 1463 at v^{li}. (Reg. Bek. ff. cclxxxviij, cclxxxx.)

In the "Valor" of 1535, it is thus returned :—

Ichestoke.

Thomas Shakyll, Perpetual Chaplain.

Value in demesne lands .. vj^{li} x^{s} ij^{d}

From thence :—

Annual maintenance of a child, by real composition .. .. xxvj^{s} viij^{d}

And there remains clear .. .. ciij^{s} vj^{d}

The tenth from thence .. x^{s} iiij^{d} di' q'.*

On the suppression of the Chantries, 2 Edward VI., this Chapel and a fund for the maintenance of lights in the parish Church of Canyngton, the only foundations of this nature in the parish so returned, thus figure in the Certificate of their possessions :—

* Val. Eccl. I. 215.

64 CANNYNGTON.

The free Chapell of Icheſtocke w^t^in the paryſhe ther.

Is yerely wo^r^the in — LANDES ten'*tes* and hereditamen*tes* in Cannyngton and Stokecurcy in the tenure of ſondery p'ſones as maye appere p'ticulerly more at large by the Rentall of the ſame — vj^li^ xv^s^ vj^d^

Plate and Ornam*tes*. — None but a challice—x oz di'

Memor^d^. — Thomas Shakle Clerke of thage of .l. yeres incumbent ther.

Ther be certayne woodes growing apon the landes in Stokegurcy, the value wherof is not preſentyd

Lyght*es* foundyd w^t^in the paryſhe churche ther — Ar yerely wo^r^the in — TENNE acres of lande lyinge in Spaxton, in the tenure of Walter Stone — viij^s^ Wherof in — Rent*es* reſolute paide yerely — xv^d^ ob. And ſo — Remayneth Clere — vj^s^ viij^d^ ob.*

* Certificate of Chantries, No. 42, n. 64.

The "Particulars" for the disposal of the Chapel and its possessions furnish us with the following summary :—

FREE CHAPEL OF ICHESTOKE, IN THE PARISH OF CANYNGTON.

Rent of Mansion House, with one close containing by estimation three acres	v^{s}	vj^{li} xv^{s} vj^{d}
„ vj acres of land leased to Robert Silke and Andrew Lovell	viij^{s}	
„ certain lands in Stokegursy „ John Gaye	xvj^{s}	
„ j meadow „ Richard Bickeham	xj^{s}	
„ certain lands „ Joan Hatcher	vij^{s}	
„ „ „ „ John Cramplyn	v^{s} x^{d}	
„ j acre „ William Bucke	xij^{d}	
„ certain lands in the occupation of John Burlande and William Bitford	xviij^{s}	
„ „ „ „ John Pole	v^{s}	
„ „ „ leased to Robert Everet	xlviij^{s}	
„ j parcel „ William Bidford	viij^{s}	
„ ij acres „ William Pole	ij^{s} viij^{d}	

The accuracy of the foregoing return is attested by William Burne, deputy of William Morice, Esq., Supervisor of Particulars. The property was passed, on the 27th of June, 1548, in the names of Sir John Thynne and Laurence Hyde, amongst other parcels of similar possessions, "the King's Majesty to discharge the purchasers of all incumbrances, except leases and the covenants in the same," and "lead, bells, and advowsons excepted."*

On the 10th of August, 1548, the King granted to Sir John Thynne, Knt., and Laurence Hyde, gent., among

* Parts. for Sale of Chantries. Miscell. Books, Off. Aug. vol. 68, pp. 245 b, 246.

lands belonging to various religious foundations in other counties, the Chantry of S. Andrew, or S. John Baptist, in the Church of Frome Selwood, and its lands; the Chapel of S. Katerine, in Frome Selwood; a Guild or Fraternity in Corscombe, and its lands; the Chapel of Est Horryngton, and its lands; the Free Chapel of Ichestocke, in the parish of Canyngton, lately dissolved, with the mansion House and capital messuage of the same Free Chapel, and one close of land, containing by estimation three acres, in the parish of Canyngton aforesaid. Also lands, containing by estimation six acres, then or lately in the tenure of Robert Silke and Andrew Lovell, lying and being in Canyngton. Also lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, &c. in the separate tenures or occupations of John Gaye, Richard Byckham, Joan Hather, John Crampelyn, William Bucke, John Crampelyn, William Bitforde, alias Bidforde, John Poole, Robert Everet, and William Poole, situate, lying and being in Stokegarsy, and formerly belonging to the said late Free Chapel of Ichestoke. The lands belonging to the Chapel were valued at £6 15s. 6d. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Gyddyhall, on the day named above.*

Thomas Shakyll or Shackeley, the last Incumbent of the Chapel, was living in 1556, and occurs among the pensionaries as in receipt of a pension of c^{s}.†

2. Chapel of Combwick. At what period this Chapel, which was dedicated to S. Leonard, was originally founded is unknown. We have already had an account of the donation, by Robert Fitzpayn, to the Prioress of Canyngton, of certain lands for the support of a Priest celebrating in this Chapel. (Pages 40, 41, 133.) From the Valor of 1535, and the Ministers' Accounts of the following year, we

* Pat. 2 Edw. VI., p. 5, mm. 60—64.
† Card. Pole's Pension Book, fol. xxx.

learn that it was still appropriated to the Priory, and that the Chaplain received a yearly stipend from the revenues of the House. (Pages 73, 81.) John Cockes was Chaplain in 1468. (Reg. Still. f. xxiij.) On the Suppression it was granted to Henry Codenham and William Pendred.

On the 14th of July, 1549, the King granted to the aforesaid Henry Codenham and William Pendred, of London, together with lands in S. Margaret Lothbury, S. Dionis Backchurch, S. Ethelburga, and other parishes in London, belonging to charities of various kinds, all that Chapel of Comage in the parish of Cannyngton, in the County of Somerset, lately dissolved, with one small house called the Chappell Howse, and all other houses, buildings, gardens, &c. in Cannyngton, to the said Chapel of Comage in any way pertaining, or reputed so to do. Also all that burgage or tenement, then or lately in the occupation of John Nuper, or his assigns, in Bridgewater, formerly belonging to the Chantry of the Name of Jesus, founded in Taunton, lately dissolved. Also lands in various other Counties, including the Rectory or Cell of Ovingham, in the County of Northumberland, formerly belonging to the late Monastery of Hexham, in that County. The bells and lead were reserved. The grant was to take effect from the feast of S. Michael last past, the property to be held in socage, as of the Manor of Estgrenewich, and was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, on the day named above.*

3. Church of Cannington, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. We have already seen in the Certificate of Chantries that the rent of ten acres of land, in the occupation of Walter Stone, in the parish of Spaxton, amounting to vj^{s} viij^{d} ob. a year, was devoted to the maintenance of lights in the

* Pat. 3 Edw. VI., p. 11, mm. (9)—(13.)

Church. This land was granted to William Moryce and Edward Isaake, with other property of the same description, including lands for the support of a lamp in the parish Church of Stogumer, lands in Gothurst for the support of an anniversary in that Church, lands in support of a lamp in the parish Church of Brusshford, the Chapel or Mansion, and lands of the Chantry of Catcote in the parish of Murlynche, lands for lights in the parish Church of Yerlyngton, and for the support of a Priest in the parish Church of Chedsey. These were to be held by fealty only, in free socage. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Leighes, on the 8th of July, 1550.*

4. Parish of Cannington. Various lands in the parish, belonging to the Hospital of S. John of Bridgwater, etc. were granted to Thomas Sydney and Nicholas Halswell, on the 1st of May, 1553.† The particulars of the grant will be found in the History of Mynchin Buckland, in this volume, pp. 203, 204.

An approximation to the values, in the middle of the fourteenth century, of several of the benefices whose annals are presented in this volume may be obtained from the Nonæ Roll of the 14 Edward III., 1340, part of the Somersetshire portion of which has been discovered since the publication of the "Nonarum Inquisitiones," where no returns for that County are given, by the Record Commission in 1807. The grant of the Ninth was intended to include the laity only, as the clergy paid at the same time their special subsidy; and redress was given to the latter, where, as in some instances, both sums were

* Parts. for Sale of Chantries, Miscell. Books, Off. Aug. vol. 67, p. 69. Pat. 4 Edw. VI., p. 4, mm. 28—31.

† Pat. 7 Edw. VI., p. 4, mm. 1—5.

in error collected. The assessors were instructed to levy the Ninth of corn, wool, and lambs in every parish, according to the Value upon which Churches were taxed—the "Taxatio" of Pope Nicholas. The inquisitions, thus taken upon the oath of the parishioners in every parish, furnish positive information, independently of the "Taxatio," of the value of the several benefices, many of which are not included in that Return.

The jury of the respective parishes returned the Ninth of Canyngton, at xiiij^{li} xij^{s} iij^{d} per annum; of Northpertone, at xx^{li}; of Durstone, at xv^{s} iij^{d}; of Bromfelde, at xxvij^{s} iij^{d}; of Halse, at xlix^{s}; of Hethfeld, at xl^{s}; and of Tolonde, at xl^{s}. Of Kynemersdon a more particular account appears on the Roll. The jury give the value of corn at x^{li}, of wool at xxx^{s}, and of lambs at ix^{s} iij^{d}—in all xj^{li} xix^{s} iij^{d}.*

Under the altar steps, in Cannington Church, according to Collinson, History of Somerset, I. 235, there was a brass to the memory of a vicar and benefactor named Allford, who died in 1484. And in one of the north windows of the nave was the inscription :

Orate pro bono statu Edwardi Basing.

and near it,

Orate pro aia Leonardi Tilly armig. et pro bono statu Johanne, nuper consortis suae.

In the Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, vol. I., p. 31., (1st Nos.) is the following notice of an exhibition at the first Quarterly Meeting of the Society, held at Taunton, 2nd January, 1850.

* Lay Subs. $\frac{169}{14}$.

"The Rev. T. F. Dymock exhibited a letter belonging to Col. Tynte, from one of our Henrys to William Dittisham, of Cannington, directing the appointment of a Prioress to the Nunnery in that village."

I have repeatedly endeavoured, but have hitherto been unable, to obtain an inspection of the document thus strangely described, and cannot therefore inform the reader from which "one of our Henrys" the missive proceeded, or indeed if from any one of the monarchs of that name. I very much question whether either the name of the receiver or the purport of the document is correctly stated. A William Dodesham, possessed of property in Canyngton, occurs in the 2nd year of Henry IV. (Ped. Fin.), and a William Dodesham, jun., the son of the former, in the 15th of Henry VI. (Plac. Scacc.) The latter died on the 11th of August, 20 Edw. IV., 1480; (Inq. p. m. n. 78.) and a brass to his memory, and another to that of Joan his wife, who died the 30th of September, 1472, were in Cannington Church. I conjecture that the document was a precept from either Henry IV. or Henry VI. to an Escheator of the name, although I have not found an instance of his holding that office; and that it related to some property connected with the Priory, about which he was ordered to take the sense of a jury, and to report their verdict, similarly to the instances at pp. 23, 36, 37, 40, 125, etc.

Ayrshire Barrow Priory.

FROM the chief city of Western England to the pleasant watering-place of Weston-on-the-Sea, the tourist in Somersetshire may travel by an ancient highway whereof every mile is rich in natural beauties or in picturesque memorials of olden days. Turning his back on the spires and pinnacles of the mercantile metropolis of the mediæval age, and leaving on his left hand the shrine where modern piety has reverently attempted to re-create for holy use the half ruined sanctuary of our forefathers, he first enters a green and lonely valley, and, after many shady windings, with gleams of sunlight through the trees illuminating the steep declivities and forests of the hills on either side, suddenly finds himself by the church of Long Ashton. Further on, and about six miles from Bristol, a lane of genuine Somersetshire character leads him by less than the distance of a mile to the wall of an extensive park, across the undulating level of which he can discern a small and unpretending village church, and closely adjoining thereto a large mansion of the age of Queen Elizabeth, flanked by some barns and other farm

buildings of an earlier period. By the time that he arrives at the site of these edifices he will have left the valley and have mounted to a considerable eminence above its level. The buildings, as he will find, are on the crest of the hill, and he will not fail to be delighted with the prospect which they command. His eye passes over the rich valley below him and encounters the wooded heights of Wraxall and Long Ashton, following the course of which he may descry the gilded vanes of the old city shining out clearly and sharply in the sun. The traveller then turns, we will suppose, to the peculiarities of the scene immediately behind him. With the exception of the tower of the church and some of the farm buildings already referred to there is nothing which strikes him as indubitably old. He finds that he is on a spot where strange hands have unhappily obliterated what earlier possessors delighted to adorn, and that, if he would conjure up the scene as it once existed, he must endeavour to learn its characteristics from descriptions of the place contained in statements not originally intended to serve such a purpose, rather than amid the hardly appreciable evidences of the ancient glory which sacrilege has yet permitted to remain.

On the spot now occupied by the Elizabethan edifice once stood a small and little-known Priory. Its history has to be gathered grain by grain from the vast aggregate of MSS. memorials contained in our national and ecclesiastical depositories instead of the meagre and unsatisfactory sketches which the press has hitherto disseminated. The place has been so little known to the writers of the last three centuries that one of them, to whom Somersetshire archæologists are under special obligations, the learned Archdeacon Archer, who furnished Hearne with his very imperfect but still valuable list of

Superiors, frankly admits that he could hardly associate the few facts which he had strung together with any particular locality—"ubi vero terrarum situs est iste conventus de Bargh haud certe scio."* Oblivion has all but buried the tale which in the following pages I have endeavoured once more to narrate, and has covered with an obscurity all but impenetrable the picture which I have attempted again to present, in as much of its original colouring as can now be recovered, for those who love the olden days of England's greatness and treasure the evidences of their true nobility.

It may appear to some an almost perverse exercise of research to endeavour, as I have done in the present and several former instances, to draw back the veil which has so long and closely covered the fortunes of a small and indigent community. Multiplicity of inmates, however, or of possessions, is but an indifferent criterion of the interest which attaches to such establishments. The smallest and poorest of them, as I hope I can show, is not without the means of furnishing, to the hand which knows how to gather, many and precious memorials of times over and gone. All were members of one sacred family, and presented in a greater or less degree the fair lineaments of the same gracious original. It may also be that the more obscure and little-known the subject the greater is the pleasure of throwing upon it the light which will avail to place it among the clearest and best understood. Added to which our present investigation supplies one of the two yet remaining gaps in the history of the Mediæval Nunneries of Somersetshire, whereof Mynchin Buckland and Canyngton have already been treated in a similar manner, and

* Chron., f. 236.

White Hall of Ilchester alone remains to complete the series. I would again plead in extenuation of the minuteness of my details were I not certain that I am inducing a considerable number of readers to estimate their value as I do myself, and to think that the particularity of the information which I furnish is a special excellence of my labours. Those only entertain a light opinion of such particularity who are either careless of the subject itself, profoundly unconscious of their own deficiencies, or having an evil purpose to serve in keeping others as ignorant as themselves.

The name of the founder of the House, which appears in the records as Mynchin Barwe, Barewe, Bargh, Barouwe, Barow, Barowe Gurney, &c., cannot be stated with certainty. It has been asserted, but entirely without reason, that to Gervase of Canterbury, sometime in the reign of Richard I., that honour is to be attributed. The founder was without doubt a member of the family of Gournay, or Gurney, Lords of Stoke Hamden. One of them founded the House of the Gaunts, at Bristol, and to the same generous hand Leland ascribes the establishment whose fortunes I am about to narrate. "Gurney," he says, "was one of the four chief Lords of Mendepe, Lord of Stoke Hamden, and ther he lyethe buryed in a Colegiate Chapell by the Ruyns of his Castle. He was chefe Foundar, as some say, of the Howse of Gaunts at Bristow. He was Foundar of the Priorye of Nunes in Somersetshire caullyd Barow Gurney."* This also, however, is an error. The period at which the Monastery in Bristol was founded is well known to be far subsequent to that of the foundation of Barwe. As we shall see presently, the latter must have

* Itin., vii. 82.

been in existence in the middle of the reign of King John, while the former did not figure among the Religious Houses of Bristol until late in that of Henry III.

The family of the founder, which gave to the Manor its distinguishing name of Gournay, is early mentioned as possessed of property within its limits. Robert Fitzharding obtained it by grant from William Rufus. Eva de Gournay, his grand-daughter and heir, married Thomas, son of William de Harptre in the time of Richard I., and died before the year 1230. She was the mother of Robert de Harptre, who assumed his mother's name of Gournay, and was the founder of the Hospital of Gaunts. It is by no means improbable that to the good Eva de Gournay, from whom her half-brother, Maurice de Gaunt, held the Manor of Barewe for his life,* the honour of founding a House for a religious community of her own sex may rightly be referred. Leland, as we have already observed, ascribes the foundation to a member of the family of Gournay, while Collinson says that one of the Fitzhardings was the founder.† In the attribution of the good work to Eva de Gournay both of these statements may be held to agree.‡

The exact date of the foundation cannot be recovered, but, as has been already stated, the House was in existence prior to the year 1212. To that period is referrible the bequest to it by Hugh Wallis, Bishop of Lincoln, of ten marcs, "domui Monialium de Berwe x marc." The Bishop's will was dated on the Feast of S. Brice, the 13th

* Cart. 16 Joh. Pat. 18 Joh. m. 1. Add. MS. B.M. 1985, p. 312.

† Hist. of Somerset, ij. 309.

‡ See Appendix No. I. for a pedigree of this branch of the Gournays. The history of the family at large has been written with great ability by Daniel Gurney, F.S.A., in his *Record of the House of Gournay*, 4to. Lond., 1848, 1858; but I regret that a few words at pp. 602 and 633 are all that he devotes to the history of the Priory.

of November, 1212, and was attested by John, Bishop of Bath and Wells; Master Helyas, of Durham; Master John, of York; Master Reginald, of Chester; Masters William, Roger, and Helyas, chaplains; Peter de Cicester; and William de Hamm; the two first-named of whom were the executors. He died on the 7th of February, 1234-5.*

The Priory, which was founded for Benedictine Nuns, was dedicated to the B.V.M. and to S. Edward, King and Martyr, and, also, as it appears by a document of an age not long anterior to the Dissolution, to the Holy Trinity.

As is the case with a large number of similar establishments, we are ignorant of the extent of its original possessions. They must have been very small, for I have been able to identify almost all its endowments with the benefactions of subsequent times. The land immediately surrounding the House was probably the source of its entire revenues.

In the 47th year of Henry III. an instance of the tenure by the Gournay family occurs in a most voluminous "extenta terrarum" of Richard de Clare, late Earl of Gloucester, where it is set forth that Robert de Gurney, the son, as we have seen, of Eva de Gournay, held xxj fees in Harpestre, Ferinton, Barewe, Westharpestre, Englescumb, and Haletre, in the county of Somerset, and in Sernecote and Dodington, in the county of Gloucester.†

This Robert de Gurney held, on the day of his decease, among other property, the manors of Barewe and Hinglescombe, with their appurtenances, by the service of twenty two and a half knights' fees, of the Earl of Gloucester in

* MS. Harl., 6968, pp., 19, 20.
† Inq. p. m., 47 Hen. III., n. 34 c. MS. Harl., 4120, p. 7.

chief. Anselm de Gurney was his son and next heir, and of full age.*

The Berkeleys were subsequently Lords of the Manor, as well as patrons of the Priory. Thomas de Berkeley, son of Maurice de Berkeley, was returned by the oath of a jury as Lord of Bacwell, Barwe Gurney, &c., and of all their free tenants, from ancient feoffment. The King's writ of enquiry, in answer whereunto this return was made, bears date, witness the King, at Trouern, the 3rd of June, in the 11th year of Edward I., 1283.†

The nuns obtained at a very early period a pension, payable from the Church of Twiverton, near Bath, of £1 6s. 8d. a-year, references to which will frequently come before us in the following pages. It is mentioned in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV.,‡ which was compiled about the year 1291. No mention is made in that record of the Church of Barrow, or of any other possessions of the Priory, either spiritual or temporal. For an account of the Taxation itself, I must refer the reader to my History of Canyngton Priory, p. 12.

Very shortly after this we have an interesting notice of the connection of the manor with the Gournay family, and a minute description of its extent and value. In answer to a writ, dated, witness the King, at Rokesburg, the 12th of May, in the 24th year of Edward I., 1296, Oliva de Gurneye, widow of John de Gurneye, and daughter of Henry, Lord Lovel, of Castle Cary, deceased, is stated, in an Inquisition made at Westharpetre, on the 8th of June following, to have held the manor of Barwe Gurney of the Countess of Gloucester and her heirs, by military service,

* Eschaet., 53 Hen. III., So. 23. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 9. MS. Lansd. 316, f. 21b.
† Inq. p. m. 11 Edw. I., n. 117, (olim 38).
‡ Tax. Eccl. P. Nich. IV., p. 199.

for half a knight's fee ; and that there was there a capital messuage, with a garden and dovecot, worth vj^{s} viij^{d} a-year; that the pasture in the park was worth xiij^{s} iiij^{d} a-year ; rents of assize, payable at Easter and Michaelmas, worth iiij^{li} xij^{s} iij^{d} ; of arable land in the demesne, cc acres, worth xvj^{s} viij^{d} a year, at j^{d} per acre ; of meadow mowing-land xx acres, worth xx^{s} a year; of enclosed pasture in common, worth xiiij^{s} a year ; and pleas and perquisites, worth iiij^{s} a year. The jurors conclude by stating that Elizabeth, the first-born daughter of the said Oliva, is her next heir, and was of the age of twenty-one years and upwards at Michaelmas last past.*

At the same time the heir of Robert de Gurney held five fees in Fferinton, Babinton, Harpetre, Barewe, and Englescombe.†

In 1313, the heirs of John le Sor held one half of the vill of Bacwelle, with one portion of the advowson of the church there, of Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, by the service of a half of one knight's fee. Richard de Rodeneye held the other moiety of the same. And the heirs of John Apadam held the manor of Barewe of the earl aforesaid, by the service of one knight's fee.‡

We are now introduced to the interior of the House. By a letter, dated at Chu, the 26th of June, 1315, Bishop John de Drokenesford directs the Prioress of Bargh, by virtue of her canonical obedience and on pain of excommunication and suspension from her office, to observe and cause by her nuns to be observed impartially and inviolably his injunctions, which follow. That they should

* Inq. p. m. 24 Edw. I. n. 28. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, p. 40. See Appendix, No. I.

† Inq. p. m. 24 Edw. I., So. 107. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 42.

‡ Eschaet. 7 Edw. ij. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 71.

submit themselves obediently to the custodian of their affairs which the Bishop had appointed, or might appoint, and should be content with his decisions. That the Prioress should for the future cease to interest herself with worldly and secular matters, by reason of which the service of God would suffer postponement; but should above all things apply herself to the worship of God, and diligently and carefully to the government of her sisters. That the Prioress and the other nuns should eat and sleep together, unless hindered by ill health or other just cause. That the Prioress should not concede to any one of her nuns permission to go into or beyond the vill, except from great and lawful cause, and that then they should go in pairs, and in their Nuns' habit, and should not wander to places to which their leave did not extend, nor voluntarily absent themselves beyond the time of their leave. That silence should be observed, as their rule required. That the Prioress should not carry herself harshly towards her Nuns, but should live in all charity, love, and unanimity. That the Prioress should take diligent and assiduous care that Divine Service should be devoutly performed according to their rule by all her nuns, and at the due hours. And that their rule should be read among them frequently, distinctly and openly, so that it might be understood by all.*

It is satisfactory to find that these injunctions, the result no doubt of an Episcopal Visitation, hint at the breaches of regular discipline, rather than at those grosser immoralities which are too often considered by uninformed persons to be inalienable from the monastic system.

This was followed a few days afterwards by a letter from

* Reg. Drok. f. lxxixb. Appendix, No. II. Abstract in MS. Harl., 6964, p. 27.

the Bishop to William de Suttone. The writer begins his missive with the declaration that it is pious and consonant to right to succour the wretched, and to relieve them from their miseries in time of necessity. He then, with a compliment to his fidelity and prudence, both of which qualities were assuredly needed for the delicate and difficult duty, commits to him by those presents, and until he thought fit to revoke his license, the care and administration of the House of Nuns of Barwe, imploring him to show himself diligent in the work, and to consult him as often as should be needful about the matters appertaining to his office, so that he might deserve the thanks of Him who is the giver of all good things, and of himself the writer. The letter is dated at Evercrich, the nones, or 7th, of July, 1315.*

In the autumn of the following year the Prioress either resigned her office, or departed this life. Her name has not been preserved. The choice of a successor fell on Johanna de Gurnay, a Nun of the House. She was of the kin of the founder, and, I believe, a daughter of either Robert or Thomas de Gournay; in either case niece of Oliva and cousin of Elizabeth before mentioned, and, in the latter, sister of Sir Thomas de Gournay, the regicide.† The Bishop wrote to John de Godele, Dean, and Hugh de Pencery, Canon of Wells, empowering them in his stead to examine the election of Johanna, to confirm the person of the elect if canonically elected, and, after confirmation, to put her into corporal possession of the Priory and its rights, as the custom was. Of all these proceedings they were to certify him under their seal. The letter was dated at

* Reg. Drok. f. lxxx. Appendix, No. III.
† See Appendix, No. I.

Evercrich, the 4th of October, 1316, and the seventh year of his consecration.*

On the 20th of July, 1317, the chapel of the Bishop's palace at Banewell was witness to a scene of no little solemnity. On that day Johanna de Gornay, Agnes Sant de Marays, Milburga de Derneford, and Bacillida de Sutton, Nuns of Barwe, were professed by imposition of hands of the Lord Bishop.† We shall meet with these ladies on several subsequent occasions.

It was afterwards discovered that the election of Johanna de Gournay was null and void according to the constitutions of a general council, inasmuch as at the time of her election she was not a nun professed. In a letter to the Archdeacon of Bath or his official, the Bishop asserts that on the occasion of a late judicial visit to the monastery of Bargh, in the matter of that election, he had found that the said election was void for the reason above stated. That he had diffinitively so pronounced, and that the nuns had lost accordingly for that time the right of election. That he had found, however, that the said Johanna was fit for the office, and that, now that the canonical objection was removed, he authorised him to visit the Monastery in person and to induct the said Johanna into corporal possession of the same, with an injunction to all the nuns, by virtue of their religion, and on pain of excommunication, to pay her due and canonical obedience. The letter was dated at Hynedon, the 26th of October, 1317, and the eighth year of his consecration.‡

In the appropriation of the Church of Twyverton to the Prioress and Convent of Kyngton, the advowson of which

* Reg. Drok. f. lxxxxix. Abstract in MSS. Harl. 6964, p. 37; 6985 B. f. 128.
† Reg. Drok. f. cl. Appendix, No. IV.
‡ Reg. Drok. f. clv. b. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964., p. 57.

belonged to them on the resignation thereof of Hugh de Alresforde, the rector, dated at Welington, the 16th of March, 1320, that church is stated to be granted to them and their successors, reserving to the Prioress and Nuns of Barwe the portion of tithes which the said Prioress and Nuns lawfully received, and have from old time been accustomed lawfully to receive, and saving the vicarage, to be appointed by him, and to be taxed according to his will and pleasure.*

The state of the Priory appears to have soon necessitated the adoption of stringent measures for its improvement. On the 6th of September, 1323, the Bishop wrote from Yatton to Adam de Burlee, rector of Chyu, and Henry, rector of Harpetre, that, inasmuch as the Convent of Barwe, by defect of counsel and aid — from which it would seem that the efforts at reformation of William de Suttone, some eight years before, had not been crowned with permanently beneficial results—was of late so depressed and pauperised that it was hardly possible that it should rise again, he, from a desire, as far as he could, with divine aid, to provide a remedy, had directed his attention to them, in whose fidelity and industry he had the utmost confidence, and, at the good pleasure of his will, committed to them and each of them by those presents the care and custody of the said House and the goods and possessions of the same, for the relief of its burdens. And it was further provided that they should not permit the Prioress of the said House, to whose bad management it is evident that the evil was attributable, to run about the country without reasonable cause and the consent of both or of one or the other of them, to the shame of her religion and the damage of the House aforesaid.

* Reg. Drok. f. clx. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 59. Chron. Well., f. 253.

The Bishop adds his will and command that this should be intimated to the said Prioress and to all whom it concerned.*

This was not long afterwards followed by a Visitation. On the 18th of January, 1324-5, the Bishop, at Banewell, commissioned his official to visit the Priory and Nuns, and to remove the Prioress from her administration if there should be urgent necessity; and also to correct, inquire into, and punish the excesses of delinquents in the aforesaid Priory.†

It would undoubtedly appear that the ecclesiastics to whom the Bishop successively entrusted the work of reforming the Priory found the task to be above their powers. The office was at best a thankless and unpleasant one, wherein, if failure were a disgrace, success could hardly be considered an honour. On the 7th of February, 1324-5, the Bishop wrote to the Rector of Bacwell a long letter on the subject of the Priory and its troubles. He says that in consideration of the poverty of the Nuns and the insufficiency of the Prioress, and also of the near neighbourhood of Bacwell and Barwe, he had committed to him, of whose honesty, faithfulness, and industry he had full assurance, the custody of the House and its possessions. He firmly enjoins him by virtue of his obedience, that with the counsel of the Sub-Prioress, and of Basilia de Sutton, and the discretion given to him by God, he should dispose the said House and all its possessions for the advantage of its members, as he should think fit. Further, that he should entirely remove the burdensome retinue of servants and other persons admitted to board in the same House, which should to him seem useless, as often as

* Reg. Drok., f. ccvj.
† Reg. Drok., f. ccxxxiiij b.

there should be need. That he should restrain all opponents and rebels, if he should meet with any, by ecclesiastical censures. For the doing and expediting of all and each of the premises the Bishop adds his full authority and canonical power, until he shall think fit to revoke the same. The letter was dated at Wyvelescomb, on the day above mentioned.*

On the same day the Bishop addressed from Wyvelescomb a letter to the Prioress and Convent, expressing his paternal sympathy with their misery and poverty, and informing them that he had thought fit to commit by his letters the custody of their House and all their possessions to the prudent and honourable Rector of Bacwell, their neighbour, enjoining on him to take the oversight of the said House and their possessions, and providently to dispose the same for their use and benefit. He concludes by commanding them to pay all just obedience and submission to their custodian, as his officer.†

In less than three months after the date of the last transaction Prioress Johanna de Gurney resigned her office. It was, indeed, high time that a change took place in the government of the House. Her authority had already been practically superseded, and her removal from office was the proper reward of a long continuance of maladministration. A memorandum in the Register of Bishop John de Drokenesford records the fact that Johanna, the Prioress, accompanied by Agnes de Sancta Cruce, Sub-Prioress, and Basilia de Sutton, appeared in person at Banwell on the next juridical day after the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, the 3rd of May, 1325, to-

* Reg. Drok., f. ccxxxv.
† Reg. Drok., ib. Appendix No. V.

gether with certain other Nuns of the aforesaid Priory ; and that, after the recitation of certain articles specially affecting the person of the Prioress, the said Prioress purely, spontaneously, and absolutely resigned her office in the presence of the Lord Bishop, then and there. The Bishop forbade, on pain of excommunication, any Nun then present to disclose to any others what had taken place ; and a day was given to the Nuns to elect a successor, namely, the Thursday or Friday next after the Feast of S. John before the Latin Gate, which two days were in that year coincident with the 9th and 10th of May, on which, according to canonical usage, they were to proceed to the election, and to provide for the Priory then desolate. There were present R. and J. de Wamberg, and Adam de Rushton, clerks of the aforesaid Bishop. The Prioress and Nuns submitted to this arrangement.*

The choice, as might have been expected, fell on the good Sub-Prioress, Agnes de Sancta Cruce. The Bishop wrote to his official to investigate and report upon the election, and gave him his commission to confirm the elect if canonically elected. The missive was dated at Evercrich, the 4th of June, 1325.†

It would appear that the patron's permission had not been obtained for this election. A commission was addressed to Thomas de Retford, chancellor, Richard de Fforde, treasurer, and Robert de Wamberg, the Bishop's official, Canons of Wells, to examine the business and to report upon the same. The commission was dated at Wyvelescomb, the 5th of October, 1325.‡ A letter

* Reg. Drok., f. ccxxxix. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 94.

† Reg. Drok., f. ccxxxix b. Abstract in MS. Harl., 6964, p. 94, 6985 B. f. 131.

‡ Reg. Drok., f. ccxlj.

was directed on the same day to the commissaries, "a latere," under the Bishop's privy seal, advising them that, if it should appear by letter that the patron had refused his consent, after that consent had been duly solicited, they should proceed to the canonical confirmation of the elect, notwithstanding the opposition of the said patron, provided that there was no other obstacle to the election or the elect.*

The examination of the election of Agnes by Robert de Wamberg, Thomas de Retford, chancellor, and Walter Broun, Sub-Dean of Wells, was satisfactory, and they thereupon confirmed her in her office. The Bishop wrote from Blakeford, on the 9th of February, 1325-6, to the Archdeacon of Bath, to induct her into corporal possession.† And on the same day he addressed a letter to all and singular the Nuns of Barwe, enjoining on them the the duty of obedience and submission.‡

The notice of a commission which follows in the Register appears by the fault of some subsequent binder to have lost its proper place in the volume. It records the commission to Wamberg, Retford, and Broun, under which we have just seen them acting, revoking one to Richard de Fforde and L. de la Barr, and is dated at London, the 26th of November, 1325.‖

The troubles connected with this vacancy were not yet over. Again the Bishop addressed a letter to the Archdeacon of Bath, expressing his surprise that his previous monition as to the induction of Agnes de Santa Cruce had not been obeyed. He says that although he had ordered

* Reg. Drok., ib.
† Reg. Drok., f. ccxlij.
‡ Reg. Drok. ib.
‖ Reg. Drok., f. ccxliiij.

the Archdeacon to induct the said Agnes, and to put down any opposition, a certain Johanna de Gornay,* a Nun of the said Priory, had nevertheless maliciously hindered him in the execution of his office, by pertinaciously resisting, and intruding herself in the stall of the aforesaid Prioress, and by occupying the said stall, against whom the Archdeacon had not fulfilled his order, whereat the Bishop is much astonished, "de quo vehementer admiramur." He commands him by virtue of his obedience and on pain of excommunication to enjoin on Johanna de Gurnay that she desist from her rash behaviour and show herself obedient; and adds that if this should fail of due effect he was to excommunicate her, and cite her to appear before him in the Church of Wyvelescumb on the third juridical day after the Feast of S. Gregory, Pope, the 12th of March, to answer for her contempt and disobedience. And he was, further, to certify to him that he had so done. The letter was dated at Wyvelescumb, the 19th of February, 1325-6, and was sealed with the seal of his official, as he had not his own at that moment at hand.† As we hear of no further opposition it is to be presumed that this was sufficient, and that at length peace was restored.

Prioress Agnes de Sancta Cruce departed this life after a short conventual reign, thus unfavourably begun, of less than three years. The Nuns addressed a letter to the Bishop, informing him that on the 14th of October, 1328, the Priory being without a Superior through the death of Agnes de Sancta Cruce, they had met in their Chapter House, had agreed to elect a Successor to the office, and

* I would remind the reader who may be struck with the diversities of orthography which this and other names present, that I invariably give them in the form which they bear in the particular document from which I am deriving my information.

† Reg. Drok. f. ccxlviij. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 101.

had unanimously elected Basilia de Sutton to be their Prioress by acclamation, "omnibus consentientibus alta voce et una clamantibus *fiat, fiat, amen,*" together with all other observances which belonged to a lawful election. They beseech him to accept and confirm the said Basilia, thus rightly elected. The letter was sealed with their common seal, and dated in the Monastery at Barwe on the Feast of S. Martin, Bishop, the 11th of November, 1328.* Annexed to this in the Register is a letter, written in French, from Thomas de Berkeleye, the patron, to the Bishop, "a treshonorable piere en dieux," begging him to accept the said Basilia, and concluding "Sire, le Seynt Espirit soit garde de vous, et vous doint bone vie et longe."† The Bishop granted their request, and at the same time was pleased to dispense with some of the usual formalities in the elections of Superiors, on account of the poverty of the House which was unequal to the burden. In the instrument of confirmation he says that, having respect to the small means of the Priory of Baruwe, on account of which the Nuns were not accustomed nor able to conduct the election, on a vacancy of the Priory, like other Religious of the Diocese who were the owners of ample possessions moveable and immoveable, he had been pleased to admit and confirm the elect, in agreement with previous custom and after receipt of their letters patent, and thus to relieve them from the loss and injury which a long vacancy would entail; and that the form employed was as follows: "In the name of God. Amen. Forasmuch as we have found the election of the Nuns of Baruwe of Dame Basilia de Sutton, Nun professed of the same House and of

* Reg, Drok., f. ccc b.
† Reg. Drok., ib.

our Diocese, to be Prioress of the same, the consent of Thomas de Berkeleye, patron of the same place at this turn, having been in the meanwhile obtained, to be celebrated agreeably in all respects according to the custom of that Priory, we by pontifical authority confirm the same, graciously supplying by the same authority the defects, if any there be, in the form of the election aforesaid."* The oath of canonical obedience which was taken by the Prioress was as follows:—"I, Basilia de Sutton, Nun of Barwe, elected and confirmed to be Prioress of that place, will be obedient to you, Venerable Father, Lord John, by the grace of God Bishop of Bath and Wells, and to your successors, and to the Holy Sees of Bath and Wells, also to your Officials, and to those acting in your behalf in lawful and canonical commands. So help me God and His Holy Gospels."†

Bishop John de Drokenesford died on the 9th of May, 1329. His successor, Ralph of Shrewsbury, wrote from Dogmersfeld, on the 1st of March, 1329-30, to the Prioress and Convent of Barwe, requesting them, in the French of that period, to admit Elizabeth, daughter of Hamo le Fitz Richard, Knt., as a Nun of the House. This was done, it is affirmed in the Register, by a laudable custom by which the Bishop claimed the right. We have already seen in the History of Canyngton that the Prioress and Nuns of that House were similarly favoured at the same time, and that the ladies of both establishments had to thank the Bishop's dearest friend, the Prior of Bath, for this unwelcome addition to their numbers.‡

The Nuns shortly afterwards figure in a royal brief,

* Reg. Drok., f. ccc b. Appendix, No. VI. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 132.

† Reg. Drok., f. cccij. Appendix, No. VII.

‡ Reg. Rad. ff. xix b., xx. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 26.

dated at Westminster, the 6th of December, 1331. It was issued to collect the arrears of the disme, and contains among others the names of the following incumbents with the sums demanded of each :—The Nuns of Barwe, a pension, that doubtless from the Church of Twyverton, ij$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$; the rector of Ceden, vj$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$; the rector of Monketon, xx$^{s.}$; and the rector of Wroxale, xxj$^{s.}$ iiij$^{d.}$*

With the 13th year of Edward III. we have a singularly valuable notice of five generations of the Gourney family. Thomas de Gourney then came of age and petitioned for seisin of his estates. The jury presented that Anselm de Gourneye, some time Lord of the Manors of Inglescombe, Ffarnton, and Westharptre, gave these Manors to Thomas, his son, and his heirs. That after the death of the said Thomas these Manors came to Thomas, his son ; and after the death of this Thomas, the son of Thomas, the son of Anselm, then to Thomas the father of the present petitioner. That the Manors of Inglescombe and of Ffarnton were held of Thomas de Gourney, Lord of Estharpetre, each of them by the service of a rose on the Feast of S. John the Baptist ; and that the Manor of Westharpetre was held of Lord Richard Lovell, by the annual service of twelve cross-bow shot.†

On the 17th of June, 1340, Prioress Basilia de Sutton was numbered with her predecessors. Milburga Dourneford, the Sub-Prioress, wrote to the Bishop on the 12th of August, from the Chapter House at Barwe, notifying to him the fact that the late Prioress had died on the day above-mentioned, and acquainting him with the subsequent proceedings in the election of her successor. She informs

* Reg. Rad., ff. xlviij b. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 50.

† Eschaet. 13 Edw. III., n. 37. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 128. Appendix, No. VIII.

him that, after the burial of the deceased Prioress, and licence to elect asked for and obtained from Thomas de Berkelay, the patron, the sisters met in their Chapter House on the 9th of August, and appointed the 12th of that month for the election. They commissioned one of their sisters, Agnes Sauntemareys, to warn all and singular who were under suspension or interdict to retire from the Chapter House. After this, the same sister and Juliana de Groundy were chosen to be scrutators to take the votes, reduce the same to writing, and afterwards publish them. They found, after this process, that two parts of the sisterhood—the names of the ladies are unfortunately omitted—were for Juliana de Groundy, who is declared to be provident, discreet, in life and manners commendable, of lawful age, born in lawful wedlock, and in spiritual and temporal things most circumspect. Thereupon the said Agnes Sauntemareys at their command and in their presence solemnly announced to the sisters the election which they had made. The customary solemnities were then proceeded with. Te Deum was sung, the elect was carried to the high altar, and her election duly announced to the clergy and people assembled. Afterwards, about the first hour, the election was declared to the elect by the aforesaid Agnes and Agnes Balon, and her consent solicited. She replied that she desired to deliberate, and, being again questioned by the same sisters about the sixth hour of the same day, unwilling to resist the Divine will, declared her assent. The Sub-Prioress concludes her letter, dated, as aforesaid, on the 12th of August, 1340, by soliciting the Bishop's agreement with their act, and his confirmation of the person of the elect.* The Bishop

* Reg. Rad. ff. ccxj, ccxjb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 132.

issued a commission, dated at Evercrich, the 13th of August, to examine the election, whether the same were unanimous or opposed, and requested to be apprised of the facts of the case by the Monday next after the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.* The answer was favourable, and another commission, dated at Midsomeres-norton, on the 20th of the same month, was addressed to John de Carleton, canon of Wells, to install the said Johanna and induct her into corporal possession.† The confirmation by the commissary concludes the series of documents connected with the election, which, as in a very similar instance in the History of Canyngton, supplies us with a curious and interesting account of the ceremonial, and no less a proof of the care and precision with which these episodes in conventual life were at all times characterised.‡

In the ordination of the Vicarage of Twyverton, dated at Evercrich, the 11th of August, 1342, the claim of the Nuns to their ancient pension is allowed and enforced.‖

Prioress Juliana de Groundy continued to govern the House until the year 1348. She either died or resigned before the 20th of October in that year, for on that day the Bishop at Claverton confirmed the election of Agnes Balun, whose name has been already before us, a Nun of Barwe, as Prioress of the House. It is evident from the terms of the memorandum that the form was resorted to, which, as we have lately observed, was generally necessitated by the smallness of the finances. The Bishop is said to have himself supplied the defects, if there happened

* Reg. Rad. ccxjb.
† Reg. Rad. ib.
‡ Reg. Rad. ib.
‖ Reg. Rad. f. ccxv. MS. Harl. 6965, p. 152.

to be any, in the election, and to have committed to the elect the care, rule, and administration of the House. He further commissioned the Archdeacon of Bath or his official to install and induct her into corporal possession.*

Hugh le Despenser, who died on the 8th of February, 1349-50, was seised at the time of his death of fees in Bakwell, Barwe, &c. A jury returned this fact, and that Edward, the son of Edward the brother of the aforesaid Hugh, was his next heir, and was of the age of 12 years and upwards. The return was dated the 5th of March following.† Thomas de Gourny held of the same Hugh a half of one knight's fee in Westharptre and Inglescombe ; and the heirs of John Apadam a half of one knight's fee in Barwe.‡

Twelve years after this, the Nuns received one of their most important benefactions. Richard de Acton, chevalier, obtained permission, by payment of a fine of ten pounds, to give and assign eight messuages, one shop, six tofts, ten acres of meadow and eight acres of pasture, with their appurtenances, in Welles and Barwegorney, to the Prioress and Nuns of Munechenbarwe, to provide a chaplain for the celebration of Divine Service every day for ever at the altar of Blessed Mary in the Priory Church, for the health of Guy de Brian and the aforesaid Richard himself during their lives, and for their souls after their deaths, and for the souls of their ancestors, and of all the faithful departed. The letters patent conveying this permision, and authorizing the Prioress and Nuns and their successors to receive and hold the property for the purpose above-mentioned, were dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 14th of

* Reg. Rad. f. cccxxvj. Appendix, No. IX. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 191.
† Inq. p. m. 23 Edw. III., 2 pars, n. 169.
‡ Esc. 23 Edw. III., MS. Harl. 4120, pp. 152, 153.

October, 1361.* In Richard de Acton we may recognise, I presume, the rebuilder of Bathpool Mills, and, in Guy de Brian, one of judges in the suit between the Abbat of Glastonbury and his complainants, in the year 1382, in connection with those valuable establishments.†

In the same year Thomas de Berkele, who held the Manor of Barwe Gournay of Edward le Despenser, as of the honor of Gloucester, was succeeded by Maurice de Berkele, his son and next heir, of the age of thirty years.‡

The transaction to which I shall now introduce the reader will furnish him with an excellent specimen of the great particularity and careful minuteness with which in feudal times the transfer of property was effected, so as to preserve intact the legal liabilities of the donors. On the 20th of July, 1369, a writ was addressed to William Cheyne, the King's eschaetor in the county of Somerset, witness the King, at Westminster, on that day, commanding the verdict of a jury to be taken as to whether or not it would be to the harm of the King or his successors, if leave were granted to Sir Richard de Acton, knt., Hugh Penbrigg, John de Panes, Henry Fforde, John Torney of Wolvynton, Walter Laurence, Robert Scoville, William Scoville, Richard Ffraunkeleyn, Richard parson of the church of Wroxale, John parson of the church of Bakwell, and John parson of the church of Cameleye, to give and assign one messuage, seventy-two acres of arable land, and seven acres of meadow with appurtenances in Barouwe Gournay to the Prioress and Convent of Barouwe, for

* Esc. 35 Edw. III., (2nd nrs.) n. 20. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 178. Pat. 35 Edw. III., p. 3. m. 30. Appendix, No. X.

† See the Author's History of Taunton Priory, pp. 49, 50; and his Ramble by the Tone, pp. 14-19.

‡ Esch. 35 Edw. III., n. 12. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 173.

providing a lamp which should be constantly burning in the Prioress's Church of Blessed Mary of Barouwe before the high altar, in honour of the Body of our Lord. They were further required, as usual, to state the tenure and service by which the said messuage, &c. were held, their value in all issues, the mesnes between the King and the aforesaid Richard and his fellows, and the lands that the donors would possess after the said donations, with their several ability of meeting the customary demands upon them in the shape of suits, views of frank-pledge, aids, tallages, &c. The inquest thus ordered was held at Bedmynstre, before the aforesaid Willlam Cheyne, on the 10th of March, 1369-70; and the verdict contains a number of incidental particulars which can hardly be without interest to the Somersetshire historian. The jurors, Richard Cheyn, Thomas atte Mulle, William atte Pole, William Neel, John Bailly of Bourton, Thomas Ffair, John Sparkman, Henry Masseday, John Richeman, Richard Skappe, John Skut, and John Bysshopisworth, returned upon oath that it would not be to the harm of the King or his successors if such leave were granted. They further reported that the said messuage, land, &c. were held of John de Berkelee, son of Thomas de Berkelee, by military service; and that the said John held them of Edward le Despenser, by military service; and that the same Edward held them of the King in chief, by military service; that the lands were worth per annum in all issues forty shillings; that there were no more mesnes between the King and the aforesaid Richard, Hugh, John, Henry, and the rest: that there remained to the aforesaid Richard de Acton the Manor of Thornfaucon, with its appurtenances, held by him of John Mohoun of Dunsterr, by military service, and worth per annum in all issues x^{li}: that John de Panes held one messuage and one

carucate of land, with appurtenances, in Chattelee of John de Berkelee, by military service, worth per annum in all issues xl^{s}: that Henry Fforde held one messuage and one carucate of land, with appurtenances, in Fforde of the Prior of Bath, by military service, worth per annum in all issues lxvj^{s} viij^{d}: that John Torny of Wolvyngton held one messuage and one carucate of land in Wolvyngton of John Moigne, by military service, worth per annum in all issues lx^{s}: that Walter Laueraunce held one messuage and one carucate of land, with appurtenances, in Sprotraggel of John Rodency, by military service, worth per annum in all issues xl^{s}: that Robert Scovill held one messuage and one carucate of land, with appurtenances, at Claverton of Edward le Despenser, by military service, worth per annum in all issues four marcs: that William Scovill held one messuage and one carucate of land, with appurtenances, in Broklegh of Robert de Asshtoun, by military service, worth per annum in all issues xxviij^{s} iiij^{d}: that Richard Ffraunkleyn held one messuage and one carucate of land in Bacwell of John Rodeney, by military service, worth per annum in all issues xliij^{s} iiij^{d}: that these were sufficient for the customs and services as well of the aforesaid messuages, lands, &c., as of the other lands in their possession, and for sustaining all other burdens, as the writ required: and that no lands or tenements remained to the aforesaid Hugh, Richard parson of the church of Wroxhale, John parson of the church of Bacwell, and John parson of the church of Cameley, which were sufficient for sustaining the aforesaid burdens, as the writ required. In testimony whereof the jurors to this inquisition annexed their seals. Dated at the place, day, and year aforesaid.* The letters

* Inq. p. m. 44 Edw. III. (2 nrs.) n. 46. Appendix, XI. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, pp. 192, 193.

patent were granted accordingly, empowering both the givers and receivers to complete the transaction. They are couched in the usual language, and bear date, witness the King, at Westminster, the 12th of June, 1370.*.

On the 9th of the following September, 1370, a writ was addressed, witness the King, at Westminster, to William Auncel, the eschaetor in the county of Gloucester, with the usual enquiries as to the gift by John Blanket, of Bristoll, of two messuages, two shops, and two gardens contiguous to the same shops, with their appurtenances, in the city and suburbs of Bristoll, to the Prioress and Convent of Nuns of Barwe, and their successors, for perpetually providing bread and wine for all masses at the high altar in the conventual Church of Barwe, and other works of piety for the health of the said John during his life, and for his soul after his decease, and for the souls of his parents and friends, and of all the faithful departed. To it were appended the usual questions relative to the service by which the lands were held, their yearly value, the mesnes, if any, the property still belonging to the said John, of whom held, and of what yearly value, &c. The inquest was held at Bristoll, on the 17th of the following month; and the jurors William Wike, Henry Godman, Robert Gratelee, Walter Stodlegh, Richard Carpenter, John Wattes, John Beste, John Pyntail, John Seymor, Thomas Graunt, Ralph Blanket, and Adam Stevenes, returned a favourable verdict. They added that the aforesaid two messuages, shops, and gardens were held by the said John of the King in chief, by the service of free burgage, and that they were worth in all issues, according to their true value, lx^{s} a year. Also that John Blanket

* Pat. 44 Edw. III., p. 2, m. 23. Appendix, No. XII.

had tenements in Bristoll, beyond the aforesaid gift, which were held of the King in chief, by service of free burgage, and were worth c^{s} a year. That thus the said John had land and rents beyond the gift sufficient to meet all his customs, services and other burdens; so that the country would not be damaged by his intended donation.* The letters patent were issued accordingly, empowering the aforesaid John Blanket to give, and the Prioress and Convent to receive the aforesaid property for the purposes above detailed. They are dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 4th of November, 1370.†

The Close Roll of the 49th year of Edward III. presents us with some additional information about the descent of the Manor of Barwe. I am particular in mentioning the various steps in the descent of this property, inasmuch as the Lords of the Manor were the patrons of the Priory. In the record now referred to it is set forth that John, son of Thomas Apadam, knt., remitted to Katherine Berkele, to John, her son, and his heirs male, and to Thomas de Berkele, Lord of Berkele, and his heirs, all right in the Castle and Manor of Beverston, and in the Manor of Overe, in the county of Gloucester, and in the Manor of Barwe, one messuage and four virgates of arable land in Tikenham, in the county of Somerset, and in the advowson of the church of Cherncote, in the county of Wilts.‡ The Manor of Barwe continued for upwards of a century with their descendants, the Berkleys of Beverston, and then passed into the family of Compton, as appears by

* Inq. ad q. d. 44 Edw. III., n. 7.
† Pat. 44 Edw. III., p. 3. m. 17. Appendix, No. XIII.
‡ Claus. 49 Edw. III., m. 34. MS. Harl. 1176, p. 102.

an inquisition, dated at Yevell, the 22nd of January, 20 Hen. VIII., 1528-9.*

Although not strictly in the line of our subject, yet, as illustrative of the place and neighbourhood, I may record the fact that the Bassets were at this period holders of property at Barwe, under the great family of Le Spencer. On the 12th of February, in the 5th year of Richard II., 1381-2, a writ was addressed, witness the King, at Westminster, to John Radeston, the eschaetor, and in pursuance thereof an inquest was held at Wells, on the Monday next after the feast of S. James, in the 6th year of the same king, which is coincident with the 28th of July, 1382; when the jurors, Henry English, William Sambrook, Henry Chaumpeneys, Thomas de Coumbe, John atte Fforde, John Warde, John Lyghtfot, Walter Haywarde, John Dorcote, Edward Badefaunt, Thomas Botelle, and Thomas Tomekyns returned a verdict that John Basset held lands on the day that he died in Wynflyth, in Salford, Dondray, Barwe, Bakwell, Hasell, Rochell, and Aschton, but by what title they were ignorant, with the advowson of the Church of Wynflyth, of Edward le Spencer, as of the honor of Gloucester, by military service; that the value was ten pounds; that Margary was the daughter and next heir of the said John, and that the said John died on Thursday next after the feast of the Epiphany, in the 35th year of Edward III., or the 13th of January, 1361-2.† As the information contained in this return was not sufficiently explicit, a more circumstantial account was ordered by writ of *certiorari*, dated at Westminster, the 24th of January, 1382-3; and a very similar verdict was

* MS. Harl. 756, p. 70.
† Inq. p. m. 5 Ric. II. n. 8.

returned by the jurors John Eyr, William Wyke, John Saymor, John Mey, Henry Mey, John Yong, John Cockes, John Praty, John atte Hele, William Kyng, and others, dated at Wellys, on Saturday, the feast of S. Mark the Evangelist, the 25th of April, 1383.*

The third year of the reign of Henry IV. found the Sisters involved in a new trouble. The first notice of the circumstance is not a little significant. A jury returned for their verdict that Gilbert Harclyve gave to Johanna Panes, late Prioress of Barwe, and her successors for ever, a meadow in a close called Chapelmeade, containing eleven acres of meadow, in Burghgorney, but that the donation had been made without the royal licence.† Not long afterwards the matter assumed a more serious form, and the King was solicited to grant letters patent of pardon and condonation for the legal delinquency of which the Prioress and Convent had unwittingly been guilty. This document sets forth that in the time of the King's grandfather, King Edward III, Sir Richard de Acton, knt., deceased, and others, had obtained licence to give one messuage, seventy-two acres of arable land, and seven acres of meadow, &c., to the Prioress and Convent, for the maintenance of a certain lamp to be kept constantly burning before the high altar in the Priory Church. We have already had the particulars before us. It then declares that subsequently to this transaction the Prioress and Convent supposing that a certain close called Chapelescroft, and one acre of land in Barouwe, which did not exceed the value of thirteen shillings and four pence a year, also given to the Prioress

* Inq. p. m., 6 Ric. II. n. 16. 13 Ric. II. n. 3., &c. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, pp. 215, 231. Rolls of Parliament, vol. iij. pp. 289, 461, 462, 463.

† Esc. 3 Henry IV. n. 8. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 305.

and Convent by the aforesaid Richard by his charter under the name of "all that land and meadow lying in a certain close called Chapelescroft in Barouwe Gournay with its appurtenances, and one acre of land with appurtenances in the same vill of Barouwe, which acre extendeth itself in length to the park of the said vill," were comprehended in the aforesaid licence, when they were not, had, under colour of such licence, entered upon, and held, and occupied the land, and appropriated the issues and profits thence accruing. That this had continued, until the King's late eschaetor, John Manyngford, had taken the aforesaid close and acre into the King's hands for the reason specified. Upon this, as the document proceeds to show, the Prioress and Convent humbly sued the King's grace in their behalf, and solicited pardon for their unlicenced appropriation and occupation of the land and receipt of its profits. The letters patent convey to them the King's condonation, and remission of the forfeiture of the property thus incurred, and his licence for the future possession of the close and acre aforesaid, together with all the issues and profits derived from the same, by them and their successors towards their maintenance for ever. The letters conclude with the usual reservations, and are dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 29th of November, 1403.*

Margery Ffitz Nichol was Prioress in 1410, but was then, as it would appear, of advanced age and precarious health. From a commission addressed by Bishop Nicholas Bubwith to John Hody, precentor of Wells, and John Tissebury, canon, we learn that she petitioned the Bishop, for certain true and lawful causes, to be released entirely from the care, government, and administration of her office,

* Pat. 5 Hen. IV. p. 1. m. 20. Appendix, No. XIV.

that she might be more free to serve God in quiet of spirit, and prayed his gracious consent to this her desire. He confided to these ecclesiastics the task of assigning and authorising a lawful and competent portion for her living and maintenance. The commission was sealed and dated in the episcopal Manor of Dogmersfeld, on the 2nd of September, 1410, and the third year of the Bishop's translation.* The government of this and similar establishments was by no means a work of ease, and the repugnance which we remark to have been oftentimes expressed to the acceptance of such appointments was no mere affectation of humility, but the genuine dislike of a position, the responsibility attached to which was more than commensurate with its dignity.

I presume that the report of the Commissaries was favourable, and that the Prioress's petition was granted. Little more, however, than a year and a half afterwards, the matter assumes a very unpleasant aspect, in the shape of a judgment pronounced by the same Bishop on the late Prioress Margery for neglect of her duties. It certainly looks as if she considered that with the surrender of her office of Prioress she could relieve herself of her responsibilities as a Sister of the House. The Bishop informs her that it had lately come to his ears that she had refused, and was still in the habit of refusing, to observe and obey the regular observances of her order and profession, and that she had slothfully neglected, and still did neglect, punctual attendance on the hours both of night and day, when she could conveniently be present, to the danger of her soul and the manifest violation of the rule of her order aforesaid. He therefore commands and strictly

* Reg. Bubwith, f. xlb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 17.

enjoins her that for the future she pay due and proper attention to the hours both of night and day, according to the regular observances of her order and profession aforesaid, when she is able so to do, and that she by no means allow her old age or weakness of body to furnish cause of absence. The missive was dated at Keynsham, on or about the 14th of April, (as the previous entry is dated the 13th and the following the 16th of that month,) 1412.*

In the 2nd year of Henry V., 1415, Thomas, late Lord le Despenser, who died on the 5th of January, 1414-15, is returned as having held one knight's fee in Barowe, which the heirs of John Apadam sometime held.†

In the year 1416 a return was furnished to the collectors of the King's disme, which gives us some idea of the poverty of the House at that period. We learn that the Church of Barowe, in the Archdeaconry of Bath and Deanery of Radecliffe, appropriated to the Prioress and Nuns of Barowe, is not taxed nor accustomed to pay the tenth, nor is there in it a vicarage endowed. The same Prioress and Nuns are stated to have a certain annual pension of xxvj^{s} viij^{d} in the parish Church of Twyverton, in the said Archdeaconry and in the Deanery of Bath.‡

A long series of proofs of the poverty of the House will be furnished by its constant exemption from the payment of the King's disme. In answer to a brief for this collection, dated at Westminster, the 22nd of December, 1417, the Nuns of Barowe are declared exempt, together with those of Canyngton and Ivelchester.§

To a similar commission, bearing date the 20th of September, 1421, the Priory of Barogh, together with

* Reg. Bubw. f. lvij. Appendix, No. XV.
† Esc. 2 Hen. V., n. 14. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 312.
‡ Reg. Bubw., f. cxxviijb. § Reg. Bubw., f. cxxxviijb.

those of Canyngton and Staverdale, and the Hospitals of Bristol and Wells, are returned as excepted.*

In 1426 the Church of Barwe Monialium was valued a £4, or six marcs.†

We have already noticed that the Berkeleys were the patrons of the Priory, in right of their possession of the Manor of Barrow. Full proof of this is afforded by various inquisitions taken on the decease of the successive heads of the family. These are documents of considerable interest, and well worth giving in detail.

In answer to a writ dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 10th of March, in the 6th year of Henry VI., 1428, the jurors, Thomas Blaneford, John Lemington, John Lyte, Richard Arnell, William Chambrelayne, John Brympton, Walter Parsones, Richard Samiores, William Hoskynce, George Rusceley, Thomas Broun, and Robert Bryse, in an inquisition held at Bruton, on the 4th of May, before John Gregory, the eschaetor, returned that John de Berkele, chivaler, was formerly seised in his domain as in fee of the Manor of Barwe Gurnay, with its appurtenances, and of the advowson of the Priory of Nuns of Mynchenbarwe; and also of one carucate of arable land, containing in itself c acres, x acres of meadow, x acres of pasture, iiij^{xx} acres of timber trees, xxx acres of underwood; and of x messuages, and xxx shillings of rent, with appurtenances to the same Manor appertaining. That some time previous to his death, the said John de Berkele had leased and granted the said Manor, &c. to one Thomas Norton of Bristoll, merchant, to Cristina his wife, to Walter, and Thomas the younger, his surviving son, and to Thomas his elder son,

* Reg. Bubw., f. clxxxvjb.
† Reg. Stafford, f. viijb.

since deceased ; to be held by Thomas and Cristina for the term of their lives for a rent of xj^{li} payable yearly to the same John, his heirs and assigns, at the terms of Hokkeday and Michaelmas, in equal portions ; reserving always to the said John, his heirs and assigns, the advowson of the Priory aforesaid, a moiety of the perquisites of the Manor Court, a moiety of all fines, and herietts, and underwood, a moiety of all "Wayf and Straye," happening in any way within the said Manor, or a moiety of their profits, and the fees and timber of the said Manor. That Thomas Norton the father and Cristina, yet surviving, held the Manor of Barwe Gurnay by virtue of the delivery and concession aforesaid, exceptis preexceptis. That John de Berkele died seised in his domain as in the fee of the said advowson of the Priory, and of the said various moieties and woods. That the advowson of the Priory was of no value per annum : that the moiety of the perquisites of the Manor Court was worth per annum, beyond reprises, xx^{d} : that the moiety of the fines, herietts, "Wayf and Straye" was worth per annum in all issues, beyond reprises, ij^{s} : and that the timber aforesaid was of no value per annum beyond reprises. That John de Berkele died on the 5th of March last past, and that Maurice was his son and next heir, and was of the age of xxx years and upwards.*

By virtue of a mandate, issued at Dogmersfeld, the last day of December, 1432, a subsidy of two pence in the pound was levied on all ecclesiastical benefices, for the Council of Basle. The pension of the Nuns of Barwe in the Church of Twyverton is duly set forth.†

* Inq. p. m. 6 Hen. VI., n. 50. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, p. 331.
† Reg. Staff. f. lxxxiij. MS. Harl. 6822. f. 174b.

The same year witnessed a change in the government of the House. John Stafford, Bishop of Bath and Wells, addressed in very complimentary and gracious terms a letter to Johanna Stabler, Nun of the Priory of Barwe, expressly professed, informing her that he had received abundant commendation of her manners and deserts, and that he was thereby moved to show her liberal favour. He then proceeds to acquaint her that, by reason of length of vacancy, the right of nomination to the office of Prioress having devolved upon him by law, in conformity with the statutes of a Lateran Council, he, with an earnest desire to promote the good of the Priory and to prevent the evils of a still longer avoidance, conferred upon her the office, with all its rights and appurtenances, and committed to her the government, care, and administration of the House in spirituals and temporals. The letter was dated at the Bishop's Inn in London, the 20th of May, 1432.* The lady's family name was not unknown to earlier ecclesiastical annalists. A William de Stabler was vicar of Englescombe on the 18th of May, 1315.†

The good Prioress was called to preside over a very poor community. Too certain evidence of this fact is presented by the frequent repetition of exemptions from payment of the King's disme. The House is thus returned in answers of the Bishop, dated at Dogmersfeld, on the 20th of April, 1435 ;‡ at his Inn in London, on the 6th of February, 1437-8 ; § at the same place, on the 2nd of May, 1440 ;‖ at Woky, on the 26th of September, 1450 ; ¶ at the Palace at Wells, on the 1st of October, 1453 ;** at

* Reg. Staff. f. lxxvb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 43.
† Reg. Drok. f. lxxxxb.
‡ Reg. Staff. ff. cxjb, cxij.
§ Reg. Staff. f. cxlj.
‖ Reg. Staff. f. cxlvijb.
¶ Reg. Bek. ff. cxvijb., cxviij.
** Reg. Bek. f. clxvb.

Wells, in reply to a writ of King Edward IV., dated at Westminster, on the 9th of August, 1461, where the King urges on the collectors the consideration of "the greet burthens and charges that resten upon us and daily must for the common weel," and that therefore they "certifie noon excepcions saue oonly suche as of verraye necessite and pitee most and oweth to be certified;"* and at the Palace of Wells, on the 11th of January, 1462-3.†

Isabella, late Countess of Warwick, held, 18 Hen. VI., one knight's fee in Barowe, which the heirs of John Apadam sometime held; and Henry de Beauchamp held the same at his death, 24 Hen. VI.‡

In the notice of a subsidy demanded of the Clergy in 1445, in aid of the King against the Saracens and Turks, it is stated that the Nuns had a pension in the Church of Barowe, and that such pension was then taxed in two pence.§ We have already seen, and shall notice from a document to be subsequently offered to the reader, that the Church of Barrow was appropriated to them, though when so appropriated there is no certain evidence to show.

We here catch another glimpse of the regular routine of conventual life. Quietness and order were with rare exceptions its common characteristics, jointly hallowed and enlivened by the occurrence of such solemnities as those to which the present notice introduces us. On the 3rd of February, 1462-3, Thomas Bekynton, Bishop of Bath and Wells, addressed from his Palace at Wells a Commission to John Erl, chaplain, rector of the parish Church of Bacwell, empowering him to receive, in his

* Reg. Bekynton, ff. cclxvijb., cclxviijb.
† Reg. Bek. f. cclxxxj. ‡ MS. Harl. 4120. pp. 350, 357.
§ Reg. Bek. f. xxixb.

stead and by his authority, on some convenient day which the said John was to determine, the professions of Sibilla Prest and Isabella Bacwell, Sisters of the House, and to see that these ladies were publicly and expressly professed, in accordance with the canonical statutes and regular observances of the said Priory.*

Collinson, in his sketch of the history of the place, gives the name of Agnes Leveregge as Prioress in 1463,† and the last Editors of Dugdale, who have done little more than copy his account, have taken him as authority for the fact. Unfortunately he does not furnish us with any reference for the accuracy of his statement; and it must, I fear, be considered doubtful, as the Episcopal Registers make no mention of her, and Tanner and Archer are equally silent.

Again we have certificates of exemption, in favour of the Nuns of Barowe, from payment of the disme, dated at the Bishop's Palace at Wells, on the 9th of January, 1463-4 ;‡ at his Inn in London, outside Temple Bar, on the 10th of November, 1468 ;§ at the same place, on the 3rd of August, 1472 ;‖ at the same place, on the 21st of April, 1475 ;¶ at Wells, on the 2nd of June, 1485 ;** and at the same place, on the 7th of May, 1487.††

The two following documents carry on the proof of the possession of the advowson of the Priory by the family of Berkeley. I scarcely need suggest to the reader their importance and value.

In obedience to a writ, dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 12th of May, 38th of Henry VI., 1460, addressed to the Eschaetor of Somerset and Dorset, an

* Reg. Bek. f. cclxxxij.
† Hist. of Somerset, vol. ij., p. 311.
‡ Reg. Bek. f. cclxxxxviijb.
§ Reg. Stillington, f. xxb.
‖ Reg. Still. f. lxxxiijb.
¶ Reg. Still. f. xcvij.
** Reg. Still. f. cxxvijb.
†† Reg. Still. f. cxlb.

inquisition was taken at Henstryge, on the last day but one of the same month, before Peter Baunfeld, Esq., and the jurors, John Henxtrygge, Thomas Sylver, John Lange, Nicholas Benett, William Gyldon, Thomas Russell, William Loote, John Brayn, William Letteford, John Sparowe, John Gybbis, and Henry Garnade, presented on oath that Maurice Berkeley, late of Beverston, in the county of Gloucester, knt., held on the day of his death the Manor of Barowe Gurnay, with its appurtenances, and the advowson of the Priory of Nuns of Mynchynbarowe, to the same manor appertaining ; and that the said manor was held of Edward Nevill, Esq., as of the honor of Gloucester, by the service of half a knight's fee for all services, and was worth per annum in all issues beyond reprises iiij^{li} : that the said Maurice died on the 5th of May last past, and that Maurice Berkeley, of Bettesthorn, in the county of Southampton, Esq., was the son and next heir of the said Maurice, and was of the age of twenty-six years and upwards.*

The end of an interval of fourteen years saw another head of the family in his grave.

In answer to a writ dated, witness the King, at Westminster, on the 14th of May, in the 14th year of Edward IV., 1474, addressed to the Eschaetor of Somerset and Dorset, an inquisition was taken at Taunton, on the 31st of the following October, before Richard Vouwell, the Eschaetor ; and the jurors, John Hygons, Esq., John Gilbert, Esq., John Bonvyle, Esq., John Mauncell, John Irlond, Richard Crypse, John Rede, John Tracy, John Chafy, John Ffourde, John Walford and Thomas Walton, returned on their oath that Maurice Berkeley, of Beverston,

* Inq. p. m. 38-39 Hen. VI. n. 57. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, p. 369.

knight, held on the day of his death the Manor of Barow Gurney, with its appurtenances, in the aforesaid county, and the advowson of the Priory of Nuns of Mynchynbarow, to the same Manor appertaining; and also one carucate of land, containing in itself a hundred acres of arable land, ten acres of meadow, ten acres of pasture, eighty acres of timber trees, and thirty acres of underwood, with appurtenances, of all of which he had died seised; that the manor, advowson, and carucate of land, with their appurtenances, were worth per annum in all their issues, beyond reprises and burdens, vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}, and were held of George Duke of Clarance, by fealty only for all services; that the said Maurice died on the 26th of March last past,* and that William Berkely, Esq., was the son and next heir of the aforesaid Maurice, and was of the age of twenty-three years and upwards.†

Barowe received another Prioress in the earlier part of the year 1501-2. On the 22nd of March in that year was exhibited, in the Conventual Church of the Priory of the Holy Trinity of Mynchon Barowe, the election of Dame Isabella Cogan, Sister and Nun of that Priory, to the place and office of Prioress of the House aforesaid. She was confirmed in her office by John Pykman, LL.D., the Bishop's Commissary. The elect took the regular oath of canonical obedience; and forthwith the said John Pykman, Archdeacon of Bath, installed the said Dame Isabella, and inducted her into real and corporal possession of the said Priory.‡ This is the only instance that I am

* In the inquisition for property in the county of Devon, it is, "on the Saturday next after the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M. last past," which was in that year coincident with the former date.

† Inq. p. m. 14 Edw. IV., n. 41. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, p. 392.

‡ Reg. King, f. 39. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 174.

acquainted with of the statement that the Priory was dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

Ralph Bee was curate of Mynchynbarowe, on the 1st of February, 1510-11, and was one of a jury which then gave a verdict in reference to the contested right of the patronage of the Church of Backwell.*

The Priory presented, on one occasion at least, a clerk for Holy Orders. On Ember Saturday, the 7th of March, 1515-6, at an Ordination in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister at Wells, "per Thomam Solubrien' Ep'm," Robert Durant, of the Diocese of Bath and Wells, was admitted to the Order of Sub-Deacon, "ad titulum Prioratus de Mynchynbarow," of the same Diocese.†

On the 16th of March, 1533-4, a transaction occurred to which reference will have to be repeatedly made. On that day Isabella Cogan, Prioress of the House of Nuns of Blessed Mary, Virgin, and of S. Edward, King and Martyr, of Mynchynbarowe, and the Convent of the same leased to farm to John Babor, of Chewestoke, their Rectory of Twyverton, and their tithe-barn, with all and every kind of tithes both of corn and hay as of all other tithes, oblations, obventions, and profits whatsoever appertaining to the said Rectory. The terms of the lease are suggestive of some previous loan on the part of the lessee. The said John Babor and his assigns were to enter on possession from the feast of the Annunciation next ensuing, and were to have and hold the property for and to the end of the full term of sixty years after the date of those presents. They were to pay to the Prioress and Convent every year during the first ten of the aforesaid sixty years, one penny at the

* Reg. Adrian, f. lxxxxiiij.
† Reg. Adrian, ad fin.

feast of the Annunciation, if it should be demanded. At the end of the ten years, and onwards throughout the remainder of the term, they were to pay yearly the sum of twenty shillings, of good and lawful English money, in equal portions at the two usual terms of the year, Michaelmas and the Annunciation, for all services save the service of the King. John Babor and his assigns, and each of them, were well and competently to repair the tithe-barn aforesaid during the term, at their own proper cost and expence. If the aforesaid rent of twenty shillings were in arrear in part or in all for fifteen days after either feast, and duly demanded, it was then to be lawful for the Prioress and Convent and their successors to enter into the said tithe-barn and distrain, and the distress so taken to carry away, and impound, and retain in their possession, until the rent with arrears, if any, should be fully contented and paid. If the rent were to continue in arrear and unpaid in part or in all for four months after either feast, and duly demanded, it should then be lawful for the aforesaid Prioress and Convent and their successors to re-enter on the possession of the tithe-barn, and totally to expel and eject from the same the said John Babor and his assigns, and to retain the property as they had done before, the present lease notwithstanding. The instrument concluded with the usual warranty, acquittance, and defence of the lessee against all persons whatsoever. Two copies were prepared, one, to which the Conventual seal was appended, to remain in the possession of John Babor, and the other, bearing his seal, to remain with the Prioress and Convent. It was dated in their Chapter House, on the 16th of March, in the twenty-fifth year of King Henry VIII, 1533-4. The lease was allowed, with the usual proviso against fraud on the part of the petitioner, by the Court of Aug-

mentations, in Michaelmas term, the 27th of November, 1542.*

Before the end of the same year the acknowledgment of the King's Supremacy was forced upon the Religious Orders. The document, however, by which the House declared its assent has not been preserved.

This would appear to have been the last official act of Prioress Isabella Cogan in secular matters before her resignation, which took place in the August of the following year. She has been incorrectly given as the last Prioress of the House, although, as we shall see, there is abundance of proof to the contrary. On the 30th of August, 1535, Katherine Bowle, the lady who had been elected to supply her place, and Convent gave a bond to the late Prioress, called in the deed "Elizabeth Cogan, nuper dicti Monasterii Priorissa," and to Sir Edward George, knt., obliging themselves, by a penalty of one hundred pounds sterling, to perform as follows. At this point the document proceeds in English, and I cannot do better than to let it speak for itself. "The condicion of this obligacion is suche that if the w^{t}inbounden Priores and Covent and their successours or their assignes do paye or cause to be paide vnto the above named dame Elizabeth Cogan or Edward George knyght or to their executours or lawfull attorneys or deputies yerely duryng the naturall lyfe of the foresaid Elizabeth Cogan foure poundes st^{r}ling money of Englond Within the p'yshe Churche of Wraxall in the said Countie of Som's' in maner and fourme folowyng that is to saye at the feast of Seynt Michell tharchaungell twenty shyllyng*es*† at the Natiuitie of our lorde Jesu

* Off. Augment. Miscell. Voll. n. 103. (Orders and Decrees, vol. XIII.) ff. 108, 108b. Appendix, No. XVI.

† The letters in italics are expressed in the original by marks of contraction.

Chryst twenty shyllynges and at the Annu'ciacion of our lady the Virgyn twenty shyllynges And at the Nativitie of Seynt John the Baptyst twenty shillynges And so from yere to yere and from quarter to quarter duryng the naturall lyfe of the said Dame Elizabeth Cogan So that at euery payment the said dame Elizabeth Cogan or Edward George knyght or their attorney to delyuer to the forsaid Priores and Covent or to their successours or assignes a lawful and a sufficient acquittaunce for the paymentes thereof Then this present obligacion to be voyde and of no strenght nor effecte And if any defaulte of the said yerely pencion of foure poundes sterlyng to be vnpaide in parte or in all by the space of one moneth after any of the said feastes which it ought to be paide contrary to the fourme aforesaid if it be lawfully requyred or demaunded that then it shalbe leful to the said dame Elizabeth Cogan or Edward George knyght or their executours or assignes to enter into all and euery parcell of the demeanes to the said Monastery apperteynyng to distreyne and the same distresse to take cary and bere awaye vnto the tyme the said somme be fully contentyd and paide That then this present obligacion to stande in his full strenght and virtue" On due examination that this document was bonâ fide and genuine, the Court of Augmentations allowed the same on the 20th of October, in Michaelmas term, 1537, and ordered the said sum of four pounds to be paid yearly to the said Elizabeth during her life, together with four pounds for arrears due to the said Elizabeth for the year ending at the feast of S. Michael last past, to be paid by the King's Receiver of the issues, &c. of the lands and possessions of the late Monastery.*

* Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 92. (Orders and Decrees, Vol. II.) ff. 3, 3b.

With this act Prioress Katherine Bowle, Bowell, Boule, or Bulle, inaugurated her Conventual reign, which, short though it was, was destined to witness so many and sweeping changes before its compulsory termination.

Before the end of the year the well-known "Valor" was taken of the Conventual property, which enabled the King to adjust with accuracy the amount of the pressure to be in the first instance inflicted on his victims, and, not the less, to estimate the value of the future spoil. The document is necessarily of considerable interest and importance, as exhibiting the precise state of the possessions of the House immediately before the Dissolution. I have, as before, given it in exact translation, and have arranged the items with more regard to modern eyes than as they stand in the original return.

DEANERY OF REDECLYFF.

Priory of Mynchynbarow.

Declaration of the Annual Value of all the Lands and Possessions, as well temporal as spiritual, to the aforesaid Priory belonging; namely, as they were taxed by Henry Capell, Knt., and the other Commissioners of our Lord the King as above, and in the time of Katerine Boule, now Prioress there.

Mynchynbarow.

	£ s d
Value in Rents of all Tenants there per annum .. vij^{li} iiij^{s} iiij^{d}	xij v viij
Demesne Lands in the hand of the said Prioress remaining, as shown by iiij trustworthy men .. .. .. cj^{s} iiij^{d}	
So clear	

Bristow.

Value in Rents of all Tenants there per annum ..	lxxxj^{s} xj^{d}	
On the other side :—		
For a Rent resolute to the Mayor of the City there ..	vj^{s} viij^{d}	lxxiij^{s} ix^{d}
For a Rent resolute "p' long' lez cabyll'" there yearly ..	xviij^{d}	
So clear		

Wells.

Value in Rents of all Tenants there per annum ..	iiij^{li} xvj^{s} x^{d}	
For Twyverton	vj^{d}	
On the other side :—		iiij^{li} xij^{s} iiij^{d}
For a Rent resolute to John Brynscom, bailiff there ..	v^{s}	
So clear		

Spirituals, as under.

Barow Parsonage.

		£ s d
Value in Issues or Profits of the Rectory there per annum, as in preceeding year	vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
Oblations, with personal Tithes and other Casualties falling at Easter, in common years	xlj^{s} vij^{d} ob	viij xiiij xj ob
Sum		

	£ s d
Sum total of the value of the aforesaid temporals and spirituals :— ..	xxix vj viij ob

From this

FEES, WITH OTHER ALLOWANCES.

	£	s	d
Fee of Edward Beynton, chief Steward there	xx		
Rent resolute to the Prior of Cristechurche yearly		xviij	
Rent resolute to the Mayor of the City of Wells, per annum		iij	iiij
Paid to the Bishop of Bath, as for procurations yearly		vij	vj ob'q'
Paid yearly to a certain Chaplain there celebrating Divine Service ..	iiij		
Sum of the Allowances aforesaid ..		cxij	iiij ob'q'
And so there remains clear after all deductions	£ xxiij	s xiiij	d iij ob'q'
The Tithe from thence		xlvij	v q'*

The next step will bring us to the outrage which consigned these possessions to other owners. But before that step is taken, and while the old aspect of the House is still before us, a few words on some of its characteristics will not be out of place.

In my History of Canyngton Priory I endeavoured to show the reader that the modern notion of the rigid and perpetual enclosure of Nuns within the walls of their House is altogether erroneous. Considerable latitude was allowed in their intercourse with the neighbourhood, and the only restrictions imposed on them were such as a due regard to their safety and good name suggested and necessitated. At a previous page this is clearly brought out in

* Val. Com. Somers. f. 56. Val. Eccl. j. p. 183. MS. Harl. 701. f. 104b.

the Bishop's injunctions to the Prioress, to which reference was made in the History of the Canyngton Sisterhood, where the reader will find an additional example derived from the records of a neighbouring Diocese, even more directly affirmatory of the fact.

I hardly need draw attention to the frequency with which ladies of rank and position were found in these communities. Mynchin Buckland and Canyngton have already supplied instances, and Mynchin Barrow was no less distinguished. This would, doubtless, be more fully proved by individual examples, had time shown greater mercy towards the records of the House. As it is, however, the fact is certain. Johanna de Gournay, Basilia de Sutton, Elizabeth Fitz Richard, and Isabella Cogan of Mynchin Barrow, were parallels to Isabella de Berkelce, Alianor de Acton, Katharine de Erlegh, Katharine Boucher, and Katharine Popham of Mynchin Buckland, and to Matilda de Morton, Johanna de Bere, Lucy de Popham, Avice de Reigners, and Cecilia de Vernai of the neighbouring Sisterhood.

The kind and vigilant supervision of the House by the Diocesan and his officials cannot posssibly have escaped the reader's attention. The former, and the latter when deputed by him, had the power of visiting the Religious Houses, and appear to have considered it a duty of the greatest importance to make a frequent and minute inspection of their state. This occasionally resulted in those monitions, addressed either to the Superiors of the Houses themselves or to certain officers whom the Bishop selected in their stead, of which the Episcopal Registers furnish so many and interesting examples. It is, however, as I have remarked on more than one former occasion, very pleasing to notice, that, although many and watchful eyes were

around these Communities, and no endeavour was made to conceal irregularities, but rather on the contrary to detect and expose them, fewer instances of the lower and grosser vices are observable, either than what might by many be supposed antecedently probable, or than what the ignorance and conscious laxity of modern times have studiously attempted to fasten upon them, and, let me not forget to add, have exhibited a foul delight when such endeavours have achieved a measure, how slight and miserable soever, of apparent success.

A comparison of the ceremonial in the election of Superiors given at an earlier page with that related in the History of Canyngton, would furnish the reader with tolerably certain proof, even in the absence of other authority, that the order observed on these solemn occasions was as nearly as possible identical. This may be briefly described as follows. On the occasion of a vacancy by death, the body of the deceased Superior was after a very brief interval consigned to the grave. Application was forthwith made by the Community to the Patron, who was either of the family of the founder, or his representative in office or descent of property, for licence to elect a successor. On the receipt of this, the officer highest in rank convened the members of the House, who then and there appointed a day for the election. On the day fixed upon they met in their Conventual Church, and the mass "de Spiritu Sancto" was sung, imploring Divine aid in their subsequent deliberations. Service over, they assembled in their Chapter House. After a preliminary exhortation, the names of all who had a right to vote were read over. One of the Community was then appointed their procurator, who accordingly conducted the business of the election. The hymn "Veni Creator" was chanted, and the procurator solemnly

commanded all who were under ecclesiastical censure or interdict to depart forthwith. Next came the reading of the patron's licence, then that of the twenty-fourth canon of the fourth council of Lateran, which orders that all elections shall be made either by scrutiny of votes; by compromise, or surrender by the members of their right of voting to certain of their community; or, lastly, by inspiration, unanimous agreement and affirmation. The first was of course the most usual, and in that case two or more of the members were selected as scrutators to take the votes, reduce them to writing, and read aloud the result. On examination of these, one of the scrutators announced to the House the election which had been made. "Te Deum" was then sung, the elect was carried to the high altar, and the election announced to the crowd of clergy and people commonly assembled on these occasions. It was then notified to the elect, and the assent of the same was requested. This was not immediately given, but, after a few hours' deliberation solicited and obtained, the Divine will, as signified by the previous election, was in general submitted to and the assent of the elect usually accorded. The official report of the proceedings by a notary was then forwarded to the Bishop and Patron for their approval and confirmation. A commission was thereupon ordered by the Bishop to examine into the circumstances of the election, and, if a favourable answer were returned, a day was appointed for receiving the oath of subjection to the Diocesan, which was immediately followed by confirmation of the elect, induction into corporal possession of the House, and a monition to its members to pay their new Superior due and canonical obedience.

So far as they can now be recovered, the names of the ladies who were thus distinguished were as follow. I refer

the reader to our earlier pages for the details relating to each :—

1. Alice occurs in 1300.
2. Joan de Gournay, 1316 & 1317. She resigned in 1325.
3. Agnes de Sancta Cruce, 1325.
4. Basilia de Sutton, 1328.
5. Juliana de Groundy, 1340.
6. Agnes Balun, 1348.
7. Joan Panys occurs in 1377 and 1388.
8. Margery Fitz Nichol occurs in 1403, 1410, and 1412.
9. Joan Stabler, 1432.
10. Agnes Leveregge, 1463 (?).
11. Isabel Cogan, 1502, 1534.
12. Katherine Bowle, Boule, or Bulle, occurs in 1535, 1536, and 1537.

Agnes de Sancta Cruce was Sub-Prioress in 1325, and Milburga Dourneford in 1340. Matilda Rosselle was, I presume, Sub-Prioress, and Isabel Polleyn, Joan Horne, Isabel le Valeys, Christina Rodeneye, and Margery Hulle, were Sisters in 1377.

So far as I can discover, there were no Vicars of Barrow, but the Church was served by a Chaplain appointed by the Prioress and Convent. This would appear certain from the return made in the year 1416, already given, and from the notice of the Chaplain's stipend, with which also the reader has been furnished, in the "Valor" of 1535. Ralph Bee was Curate in 1511, and, probably, Robert Durant in 1516.

We will now proceed with the History of the House.

The "Valor," as we have seen, was taken in the later part of the year 1535. It was but one, and that a very short, step between the compilation of these tempting returns and the spoilation for which they furnished data

at once accurate and complete. Mynchinbarrow, which from the smallness of its revenues was among those lesser Houses whose Dissolution was first decreed, had but a brief respite from the grip of the spoiler. On the 26th of May, 1536, as I have discovered from a most important document presently to be submitted to the reader's notice, the King's Commissioners arrived at the Convent, and forthwith assumed the superintendence of the estates and revenues. From the same authority we learn that the formal act of Dissolution and Suppression took place on the 19th of the following September, 1536. Similar atrocities were being committed on all sides. The scene at Mynchinbarrow was re-enacted at Canyngton only four days afterwards.

For some account of that horrible time I refer the reader to the other memoirs in this volume.

I am unable to furnish a list of the Sisters at the period of the Dissolution. I have searched for it with no little care, but, unfortunately, up to this time in vain, among the records of the Court of Augmentations, and have no hope of its existence. But I have found an order for a pension to the Prioress Katerine Bulle, by which she was to receive an annuity or annual pension of one hundred shillings sterling, from the time of the Dissolution and Suppression of the Priory, for the term of her life, to be paid by the hands of the Treasurer of the Court of Augmentations for the time being, at the feasts of the Annunciation and of S. Michael the Archangel, in equal portions. The document is precisely similar to that which was made in favour of the Prioress of Canyngton, the original of which will be found in the Appendix to that History, No. X. It was signed by "Richard Riche, Tho. Pope, John Onley,

and Robert Sowthwell," four names of evil notoriety, and is dated the 14th of February, the 28th of Henry VIII., 1536-7.*

There is no mention of the Sisters—nor, indeed, of any Steward or other lay Officer of the House—in the Pension Book of Cardinal Pole ; but whether the Nuns died in the interim between the date of the Dissolution and the compilation of that Record, the 3rd and 4th of Philip and Mary, I am unable to determine. No doubt their troubles were severe enough to shorten lives more likely to be protracted and to weaken frames more vigorous than those of the unhappy and innocent sufferers, thus inhumanly consigned to a fate from which their previous existence would induce them to instinctively shrink with horror, and whose subsequent experience was one of interminable regret for a blessing departed and beyond recall.

I have already said that the King's Commissioners were in possession of the Estates for several months previous to the final act of Dissolution and Suppression. From the day of their arrival they had to keep an accurate account of income and expenditure, to be submitted at certain intervals to the new appropriator. The first document connected with these transactions has now to be offered in detail. It formed the groundwork of all subsequent proceedings in the transfer of the property, either by lease or by sale, and it is impossible to over-rate the importance of its statements. It possesses all, and far more than, the interest of the "Valor" previously examined, and supplies us with a multitude of minute details which the compilers of that return did not think necessary to

* Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 244. n. 112. Appendix, No. XVII.

include, but which have for us the greatest possible value. It is the "Ministers' Accounts," in other words the Return made by the Crown Officers of the state, value, tenants, &c., of the lands of which the Crown had lately taken possession, from the 4th of February, 1535-6, to the Michaelmas following. I have arranged it in somewhat of a more easily intelligible form than that in which it is presented in the original, but I have endeavoured by close translation to preserve its archaic character; not only because nothing would be gained by modernising my authority, but also from a desire to make the reader acquainted with the manner in which ancient accounts of this kind are elaborated, and with the consequent minuteness of detail which is their precious characteristic. I hardly need repeat that the whole deserves a most careful examination, as furnishing a number of particulars which will be sought for in vain from any other document now extant.

THE ACCOUNT OF ALL AND SINGULAR BAILIFFS, PROVOSTS, FARMERS, and other Ministers of Account, of all and singular manors, lands, tenements, rectories, portions, pensions, and other possessions whatsoever of our Lord the King, as well spiritual as temporal, to the said late Priory now dissolved and suppressed pertaining or belonging, &c., by the authority of a certain Act of Parliament held at Westminster, on the 4th day of February, in the 27th year of King Henry VIII., &c., to the 14th day of April then next following: NAMELY from the said 4th day of February, in the said 27th year, to the feast of S. Michael the Archangel then next following, in the 28th year of the aforesaid King; that is to say, for half of one year, six weeks and six days, as below appeareth:—

Priory of Mynchynbarowe.

Mynchynbarowe Manor with Rectory.

The Account of — Drewe, farmer there.

Arrears.—None, as it is his first Account.

Farm of Site of Manor, with Rectory.

Rent of xxviij acres of arable Land at vj^{d} the acre, xxvj acres of meadow at divers rates, and rent of xlviij acres of pasture at xij^{d} the acre, thus valued and leased by the Commissioners of our Lord the King, payable at the feasts of the Annunciation of the B.V.M. and S. Michael the Archangel, equally, as appeareth by the valor then taken by the same Commissioners examined with this account .. .. .. cj^{s} iiij^{d}

Farm of tithes of corn, wool, lambs, and other profits arising or increasing from the Rectory there, thus valued and leased by the aforesaid Commissioners, thus payable at the aforesaid feasts in equal portions, as appeareth, &c. .. viij^{li} xiij^{s} xj^{d} ob.

Sum total of Receipts aforesaid :— xiij^{li} xvj^{s} ij^{d} ob.

Of which he is disburdened as follows :— Of a moiety of the farm of the site and Rectory aforesaid, for half a year ended at the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M., within the period of this Account; because Katerine Bowle, the late Prioress there, had and held the site of the aforesaid Manor, together with the Rectory and all their commodities and advantages in her own proper

hands for the use and commodity of her House there for the same time : so that no profit thence arrives to the hands of the said Accountant, as is sufficiently evident to the Commissioners aforesaid .. vj^{li} xvj^{s} j^{d} ob q'.

Paid to Thomas Arundell, Knt., Receiver of our Lord the King, of the issues of the farm of the site of the Manor aforesaid, with appurtenances, without bill, but by his own recognizance .. .. .. l^{s} vj^{d}

And he owes :—iiij^{li} ix^{s} vij^{d} ob. q'.

Mynchynbarowe The Account of John Dawbeney, Collector. collector of Rents there.

Arrears.—None, as it is his first Account.

Rents of Assize. Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Crewe, per annum, payable at the festivals of the Annunciation of the B.V.M. and S. Michael the Archangel, equally, as appeareth by the renewed rental exhibited and examined with this Account xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Margaret Crosse, per annum, payable as above .. .. xx^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Richard Stepheynes, per annum, payable as above .. .. xiiij^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Thomas Aleyn, per annum, payable as above .. .. v^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Walle, per annum, payable as above .. .. vij^{s} iiij^{d}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Hithcok, per annum, payable as above .. .. iij^{s} viij^{d}

Rent of one tenement in the tenure of John Stepheyns, per annum, payable as above .. .. .. xviij^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Isabella Broke, per annum, payable as above .. .. xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of — Leuerage, per annum, payable as above iiij^{s}

Free Rent of John Broune, for his land, per annum, payable as above .. iiij^{s}

Free Rent of John Gawdys, per annum, payable as above .. .. vj^{s} iiij^{d}

Rent of one close, in the tenure of Thomas Hoorte, per annum, payable as above xx^{s}

Rent of William Phippes, per annum, for certain land in his tenure there iiij^{s}

Rent of one grove, in the tenure of Robert Hoorte, per annum, payable as above vj^{d}

Sum :—vij^{li} xiij^{s} vj^{d}

RENTS OF ASSIZE IN BRYSTOW.

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Wilkes, alias Chapman, payable as above .. .. xxvj^{s} viij^{d}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Peter Panton, payable as above x^{s}

Rent of a certain house called Storehouse, per annum, in the tenure of John Haule, payable as above .. .. x^{s}

Rent of two tenements, in the tenure of Thomas Stapilton, per annum, payable as above .. .. xxxj^{s} iiij^{d}

Rent of one garden there, in the tenure of John Broune, payable as above iij^{s} iiij^{d}

Rent of one house there, called Corner-house, at Sainte Mary Hill, payable as above .. .. vj^{s} viij^{d}

Rent of one close there, in the tenure of Arthur Kemys, called Tryne Mille*s*, payable as above .. .. ij^{s}

Rent of one tenement there, called Sainte Jamys Bake, in the tenure of Roger Peny, payable as above .. .. ij^{s}

Sum :—iiij^{li} xij^{s}.

RENTS OF ASSIZE IN WELLYS.

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Joan Stoky, widow, payable as above viij^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Joan Alowne, per annum, payable as above vj^{s}

Rent of one garden there, in the tenure of John Sadler, payable as above .. ij^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Brymston, payable as above viij^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Mawdlyn, payable as above iij^{s} iij^{d}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Henry Pecok, payable as above vj^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Richard Smyth, payable as above v^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Robert Kyngesborowe, payable as above .. .. xxvj^{s} viij^{d}

Rent of one house, called Chamhouse, in the tenure of William Rede, payable as above .. .. iiij^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Elizabeth Tresorer, payable as above x^{s} $viij^{d}$

Rent of one tenement in the tenure of William Shurlok, payable as above $viij^{s}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of William Shurlok, payable as above x^{s}

Sum :—$iiij^{li}$ $xvij^{s}$ $viij^{d}$.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS :—$xvij^{li}$ iij^{s} ij^{d}

Out of which,

RESOLUTION OF RENT. A Rent resolute to the Mayor of Brystoll, out of land in Bristoll, per annum, as paid in the year preceding .. vj^{s} $viij^{d}$

A similar Rent resolute to the Church of Brystoll, out of the land aforesaid, per annum, by ancient custom, cancelled because not demanded this year .. .. $viij^{d}$

A similar Rent resolute to the Bishop of Bath, per annum, out of land in Wells, cancelled for reason aforesaid .. iij^{s} $iiij^{d}$

Sum :—vj^{s} $viij^{d}$.

FEES OR STIPENDS. Fee or Stipend of the Accountant holding the office of Collector there for the time aforesaid, for the exercise of his office aforesaid during the same time, namely, in allowance of the same both for the exercise of his office aforesaid, as for his keep and expences in coming to render his Account, and for the renewing of the Rental there, &c. xx^{s}

Stipend of the Clerk of the Auditor, the writer of this Account, as usually allowed to the Auditors of our Lord the King, according to the force, form, and effect of a certain

Statute or Act of Parliament, holden at Westminster, &c., the 4th day of February, in the 27th year of Henry VIII., for the Establishment of the Court of Augmentations, &c. .. .. .. ij^{s}

Sum :—xxij^{s}.

SUM OF THE ALLOWANCES AFORESAID :—xxviij^{s} viij^{d}.

AND HE OWES :—xv^{li} xviij^{s} vj^{d}.

Of which he is disburdened, as follows :—Moneys received by Katerine Bowell, late Prioress there, of the issues of the aforesaid office, received for the use and necessity of her House, for the first half of this year, and expended in the same House before the first arrival of the Commissioners of our Lord the King thither, which was on the 26th day of May, in the said 28th year; as to the same Commissioners not only by oath of the said Prioress, but also by due examination then and there made, was sufficiently evident. And he is charged in the account of the said Prioress .. .. .. x^{li} x^{d} ob.

Like moneys received by the same, out of the issues of the same office, to the necessary sustenance of her House aforesaid, from the said 26th day of May, to the Dissolution of the said Priory, which was on the 19th day of September, in the same 28th year; that is to say, for the space of twenty weeks, from her own recognizance in the book of her receipts

for the same time, with this account examined . . . . . xxxj^{s} vj^{d}*

AND HE OWES :—iiij^{li} ij^{s} j^{d} ob.

WHICH he has paid to Thomas Arundell, Knt., &c., without bill, &c.

AND IT IS BALANCED.

TWYU*ER*TON. THE ACCOUNT.

PORTION OF TITHES. Of a certain profit or sum of money arising from a portion of the tithes of the Rectory of Twyu*er*ton, to the amount of xl^{s} per annum, according to what it was ordinarily leased for in preceding years, no receipts. Because the said portion with all its profits is now leased to one John Babor, of Chewe Stoke, in the County of Somerset, for a term of sixty years, paying for the ten first years one penny in each year, at the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M., if duly demanded, and, after the end of the said ten years, then paying yearly xx^{s} at the feast of S. Michael the Archangel, and the Annunciation of the B.V.M., in equal portions ; as appeareth by an Indenture under the conventual seal there, dated the 16th day of March, in the 25th year of Henry VIII. The present year is the third of his term. Therefore the place of the Council of the Court of Augmentations aforesaid—ideo locū Concil' Curi' Augment' p'dict' quid inde qz suppo'it^{r} esse Collus.'—because some collusion is supposed to be ——— (?)

A process to issue against the aforesaid Farmer.

* Ministers' Accounts, 27-28 Hen. VIII. Off. Augment.

Sum :—not any.*

It would seem, from the imperfect and obscure minute with which the return concludes, that Mr John Babor either suspected others, or, more likely, was himself suspected, of an attempt to mislead the Court, or to tamper with some of its officials. If the latter, we may be tolerably sure, from the "fiat p'cessus v's p'dict' fir' " as a defaulter appearing against him in the margin, that his endeavours were ineffectual. But, from our previous knowledge of the transaction, as well as from the fact that the lease was allowed by the Court of Augmentations in 1542, we have no need to suspect him of any such attempt. For the other side, indeed, the same can by no means be said. With them the imputing of evil was strictly natural. Robbers have vigilant eyes, and are ever suspicious of their neighbours' fingers.

Returns of a somewhat similar kind, but lacking the minuteness which gives interest and value to this, were made at intervals until the property was finally disposed of.† It is to the particulars of this transfer that I have now to solicit my reader's attention.

On the 20th of March, 1537, the 28th of Henry VIII., the scite of the late Priory, with all its houses, buildings, granaries, stables, dove-houses, pleasure grounds, orchards, gardens, and lands, lying within the scite and precinct of the same, together with twenty-eight acres of arable land more or less, twenty-six acres of meadow more or less, and twenty-eight acres of pasture more or less, belonging and appertaining to the late Priory, were leased in fee farm to John Drewe, of the city of Bristol, Esq. All timber trees, and under woods, and all such buildings within the scite

* Appendix, No. XVIII.
† Ministers' Accounts, to 37 Hen. VIII. Off. Augment.

and precinct of the said late monastery, as should afterwards be ordered by the King to be overthrown and removed, were excepted and reserved. The lease was to run from the Michaelmas last past, ten days subsequent to the Dissolution, unto the full term of twenty-one years next ensuing, and the annual rent was to be a hundred and one shillings and eight pence of lawful English money, to be paid in equal portions at the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M. and Michaelmas, or within one month after either feast. The payment of all rents, fees, and sums of money whatsoever, issuing from the property, together with the repairs of the premises both in timber and tiles and slates for the roofs, were to be always at the cost of the King and his successors during the aforesaid term, but the other repairs at the cost of the farmer. The latter was also to have sufficient hedgbote, ffyrebote, cartbote, and ploughbote, that is, the use of wood sufficient for these purposes, growing on the estate, and to be used thereon and not elsewhere.*

On the same day was leased to the said John Drewe the Rectory of the Parish Church of Mynchyngbarowe, together with all tithes, oblations, profits, obventions, and emoluments whatsoever, to the aforesaid Rectory appertaining or belonging. The timber and advowson of the vicarage, &c., were reserved. The term was for twenty-one years, from the same date as that of the lease of the scite, and the annual rent was eight pounds, fourteen shillings, and eleven pence, of lawful English money, to be paid as aforesaid. The lessee was to have the same perquisites as those enumerated in the former instrument, but was charged with the pay-

* Enrollments of Crown Leases, Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 209. f. 49 b. Miscell. Books, vol. 205. f. 25.

ment of the annual stipend of a Chaplain, performing Divine Offices, and serving the Cure in the Parish Church of Mynchynbarowe, which amounted to vj^{li}.* It will be observed from the references that I have found a transcript of each of these leases still preserved among the Records of the Court of Augmentations.

In a copy of the Particulars for lease, given in the Appendix, the auditor, William Turnor, omits the amount of this payment, and merely adds the "Memorandum that the same p*ar*sonage is to be charged w^{t} the Stipend of a p*re*ste there oute of the same som*m*e of viij^{li} vij^{s} xj^{d} yerely."†

Long before the end of the term, as it would appear that the lessee was either unwilling or unable to purchase, the property passed by sale into other hands. In the 35th year of Henry VIII., it was requested for purchase by William Clerc, gentleman; and, as the documents furnish us with an excellent specimen of the mode usually resorted to on these occasions, it will be well to exhibit the particulars of the transaction in some detail. The memorandum, which was the first step in the negociation, sets forth "that I William Clerc desire to haue of the King*es* maiestie by weye of grant and purchace the Scite and Demeanes of the late priorie of Mynchinbarowe in the countie of Somers*et* and other the premisses being of the clere yerely value of fiftein poundes eightein shillinge*s* and a pennye, that is to say, the tenth therof not deducted . . . . . to the Rate mencioned in the p*ar*ticulars hereunto annexed. In witnes wherof I the saide William Clerc haue hereunto sett my hande and Seale the daye and yere

* Enrollments of Crown Leases, Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 212. f. 125 b.

† Miscell. Books, Off. Augment. vol. 205, f. 24. Appendix, No. XIX.

of the saide Rate. P' me Will'um Clerc." Next follow the particulars of a "Parcel of the Possessions of the late Priory of Mynchynbarowe," consisting of the farm of the House or Scite of the late Priory, together with all the houses, buildings, &c., as aforesaid, leased as aforesaid, and with the aforesaid exceptions, reservations, and conditions. The value of this is stated at cij^{s} ij^{d}. To this is annexed the farm of the Rectory of the said late Priory, together with all tithes, &c., as enumerated in the lease already given, excepting the Chaplain's annual stipend of vj^{li}. The value of the Rectory was viij^{li} xiiij^{s} xj^{d}; and, together with that of the scite, xiij^{li} xvij^{s} j^{d}. Deducting the Chaplain's stipend of vj^{li}, the clear value, beyond reprises, was vij^{li} xvij^{s} j^{d}. There was yet a further addition in that of the Manor; whereof the Rents of Assize of the Customary Tenants,—as we have already seen minutely detailed, with the name and amount of each tenant, in the Ministers' Accounts, from which return it is quite clear that the details were mainly derived,—amounted to vij^{li} iij^{s} ij^{d}; the rents of the Free Tenants, similarly given, to x^{s} iiij^{d}; and the Perquisites of the Manor Court and other casualties in common years to vij^{s} vj^{d}. The sum total of this was viij^{li} xij^{d}; and the clear annual value of the whole property solicited for purchase was xv^{li} xviij^{s} j^{d}.

To this statement the Auditor, whose duty it was to examine, or indeed prepare, the particulars for the party desirous of negociating, appended the following characteristic notices :—"What ffynes where gyvyn or wilbe gyvyn at thexpyracyon of the yerres ffor anye of the premyssys J knowe nat. Also it is percell of no mano^{r} fferme gr^{a}unge or other hereditament of the Kinges graces excedynge the yerely value of xl^{li}. Parke fforest Chace or other Capitall Mancyon place wherunto the Kinges grace

hathe accesse at any tyme is none adioynynge to my knowelege. Fferdermore J haue Delyuered the perticlers of the Scite and Rectory aforsaid to John Drewe esquyer who is ffermor therof. What woodes growith vpon the premyssys the Surveyour therof can certifie. P' Mathiam Coltehirste Audit." Next comes, though much obliterated, the result of the examination of the foregoing by the Crown Officer, beginning with a repetition of the values of the demesne lands and manor, as already given; and, after deducting the tenth, amounting to xxxjs xd, and setting forth the clear remainder of xiiijli vjs iijd, continuing thus :—"Wych is solde to the said William for the summe of clxli to be paide . . . . . the Kinges Mate to discharge the byer of all incumbraunces excepte . . . . . and except the tenth before reserved and except the Stipende of the preste of Mynchinbarowe . Rychard Ryche."

Not the least interesting is the certificate of the woods, with which the return concludes. Mynchynbarowe Grove is said to contain six acres, whereof two acres are of one year's growth, valued at xvjd ; one acre of two years' growth, valued at xvjd ; one acre of three years' growth, valued at iijs; one of four years' growth, valued at ijs viijd; and one of six years' growth, valued at iiijs; amounting in all to xijs iiijd. The spring of the wood or ground of six acres, yearly rated at viijd per acre, or in all iiijs, amounts after twenty years' purchase to iiijli. To all which detail the Surveyor annexed the following notice :—"There be growyng in the seyd grove and about the scytuacons of the seyd late Priory and vij tenementes yr and in the landes perteynyng to the sam be growyng CCC shorte shrubyd okes & ashes of xl or lx yeres growt moste part vsually cropped and shru[b]de not valuyd but reseruyd to the ffermor of the seyd scyte & demeanes for hys housbote

hedgebote fyerbote ploughbote and Cartebote w^ch^ he hayth by couen^a^nt as appereth by an indento^r^ sealed w^t^ the great seall of the courte of Augmentacons beryng date the xx daye of Marsche in the xxviij yere of the reign of o^r^ soueraign lorde kyng henry the viij^th^ & for tymber for to repayr the seyd vij tenementes w^ch^ the ten^a^nttes there haue hade by theyr custom of olde tyme vsed & to repayr and maynteyn the hedges and fences aboute the seyd landes. P' me Will'm Cowper." * Such was the minuteness with which the transfer was negotiated, and such the care that the royal dealer might lose no part of his ill-gotten gains.

But little time was suffered to elapse before the bargain was concluded. The lessee, John Drewe, was probably unwilling to risk his money in the dangerous transaction whereby the irrevocable step was passed, and the lands were for the future consigned to strangers. The offer, accordingly, of William Clerc was accepted, and in the first month of the following regnal year the letters patent conveying the grant were issued. They commence by reciting the lease to John Drewe of the Scite, &c., of the late Priory, and then set forth that in consideration of the sum of one hundred and sixty pounds of lawful English money the King had granted to the aforesaid William Clerc, gentleman, the reversion and reversions of the House, Scite and other possessions aforesaid of the late Priory of Mynchinbarowe, &c., &c., with the houses, buildings, &c., &c., already enumerated ; also, the aforesaid annual rent of one hundred and one shillings and eight pence; also, all the lands called the Demeane Landes, containing by estimation eighty-two acres, situate in Mynchynbarowe ; also, the

* Particulars for Grants, 35 Hen. VIII., Clerc William.

wood called Mynchynbarowe Grove, containing by estimation six acres, parcel of the possessions of the said late Priory; also the Manor, Rectory and Church, with all and singular their rights, members, and appurtenances; also the advowson, donation, free disposition, and right of patronage of the vicarage and church of Mynchynbarowe, to the said late Priory belonging; and all and singular the messuages, granges, mills, tofts, cottages, lands, tenements, waters, fisheries, &c., &c., with the court-leets, views of frank-pledge, knights' fees, farms, annuities, pensions, portions, tithes, profits, &c., appertaining to the same—as fully, and entirely, and amply to be held and enjoyed as they had been by the last Prioress or any of her predecessors. The House, Site, Manor, Rectory, lands, &c., were valued at the clear annual sum of fifteen pounds, eighteen shillings, and one penny. The tenure was to be in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one Knight's fee, and an annual fee-farm rent to the King and his successors of thirty-one shillings and ten pence sterling, to be paid yearly at Michaelmas to the Court of Augmentations in lieu of all services and demands whatsoever. All the issues, rents, revenues, profits, &c., were to commence from Michaelmas last past. Further, the said William Clerc, his heirs and assigns, were exonerated and acquitted of all corrodies, rents, fees, annuities, pensions, and sums of money whatsoever, save and except the rent and service already reserved to the King and his heirs, the annual pay and stipend of the Chaplain performing Sacred Offices and serving the Cure in the parish Church of Mynchynbarowe, and all the other burdens which a farmer is bound to pay or in any way discharge. They were further to have, hold, enjoy, and convert to their own proper uses the said Rectory and Church of Mynchynbarowe, and all the land,

glebe, tithe, offerings, and other profits thereunto belonging, as fully and entirely as the last possessors. And in conclusion, the letters patent were to be issued to the said grantee under the great seal of England, without fine or fee great or small. They were dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 22nd of May, 1544.*

In March, 1545, John Aylworth submitted a Request to purchase that portion of the property of the late Priory which was situated in the city of Wells. The Request slightly differs in form from that which has just been before us. It runs :—"M^d that I John Aylworth doe requyre to p^rchase of the Kinges Ma^te by vertue of his graces co'myssion of sale the premysses, conteynyd in the perticulers herunto annexid, being of soche yerelye value as is comprysed in the same. Jn Wytnes wherof to these presents subscribyde w^t my hand J haue put to my Seale the iiij^th of Marche, in the xxxvj^th yere of the raigne of o^r Soueraign Lord Henrye the VIII^th by the grace of God of Inglond, ffraunce, and Ireland King, Defendo^r of the ffayth, and in erthe Sup^rme hedd of the Churche of Ingland, and also of Ireland. By me John Aylworth." After this flourish, which clearly betrays the hand of the public servant, for John Aylworth was Receiver of rents of various kinds to the Court of Augmentations, the requested possessions are enumerated. They consisted of all the tenements, cottages, burgages, &c., situated both within the city of Wells itself and in the suburbs of the same, which, with the names of the tenants, &c., have already been fully described in the Ministers' Accounts. There was a deduction in favour of Robert Reve, the collector of rents, of his fee of xl^s a

* Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 27. mm. 27 (24)—25 (26). Orig. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 9. r. xxxj. Appendix, No. XX.

year, for the exercise of his office aforesaid. Together with the property belonging to Mynchinbarowe, John Aylworth requested to purchase that situated in Wells which belonged to the Hospital of S. John in that city, and the parsonage of Locking belonging to the late Priory of Worspring. Of that with which we are more immediately concerned the auditor states that "All the said p*ar*celle*s* lyeth w^th^in the Towne or Cytie of Welle*s* forsaid. Also the King*es* grace hath no more land*es* or Ten*ementes* there app*er*teynyng to any late Howse of Relygion w^th^in my Circute. Ex^r^ p' Mathiam Coltehirste Audit." The remarks of the Crown Officers follow, dated the 24th of February, in the 36th year of Henry VIII., and consist of a detail of the data by which they were enabled to arrive at their valuation. The reader will have no difficulty in following them in their calculations:—

Free Rents of tenements, belonging to the Priory of S. John, per annum, the tenure in socage .. .. xvij^s^ viij^d^

Parsonage of Locking, tenure by military service .. .. .. l^s^

Sum:—lxvij^s^ viij^d^

Deducting tithe v^s^

Remaining clear lxij^s^ viij^d^

which, rated at twenty years' purchase, is lxij^li^ xiij^s^ iiij^d^

Tenements in Wells, belonging to the said Hospital, by the year .. .. xxxix^li^ vj^s^

Tenements belonging to Minchingbarowe, by the year .. .. .. iiij^li^ xvij^s^ viij^d^

Sum:—xliiij^li^ iij^s^ viij^d^

"Wherof abated for the balyes fee .. xl^s^

and so rem*ains* .. xlvij^li^ iij^s^ viij^d^ in socage

Which, rated at vij yeres p^r^chace, ys cciiij^xx^xv^li^ v^s^ viij^d^

And so the hole Som'e for the *per*chace of all the *pre*misses ys :—cccIvij^{li} xix^{s}

Whereof in hand :—cc^{li}

And at Mydsom*er* next :—clvij^{li} xix^{s}

William Seint John.

Edward North

Irro^{r} p' Joh'em Hanbye. Ric. Sowthwell."*

The letters patent were issued, witness the King, at Westminster, the 25th or 26th of March, 1545, and set forth that for the sum of £357 19s. 0d. of lawful English money, as aforesaid, the King granted to John Aylworth and Ralph Dukkenfeld all the messuages, tofts, cottages, burgages, lands, tenements, cartilages, buildings, granaries, stables, orchards, gardens, shops, cellars, solars, and waste places, now or lately in the tenure of the persons already mentioned, and all other tenements, situated in the city and suburbs of Wells, and lately belonging to the Priory of Mynchynbarowe, now dissolved. To this were added the aforesaid property belonging to the Hospital of S. John, and the parsonage of Locking. We can understand by the details above given how the next statement was arrived at, namely that the property of the Hospital was valued at the clear yearly sum of £40 3s. 8d.; of Mynchinbarow at £4 17s. 8d.; and of Locking at 50s. The lands in Wells were to be held in free burgage, by fealty only and not in chief; and the parsonage of Locking in chief, by the service of a fortieth part of one Knight's fee, and a yearly rent of five shillings of lawful money of England, to be paid at Michaelmas. The grant was to take effect from Michaelmas last past, and was dated on the day and year above-mentioned.†

* Part. for Grants, 36 Hen. VIII. Aylworth John.

† Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 11. m. 46. Orig. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 4. r. iiij^{xx}vj.

A request was made by Henry Brayne, or, as he subscribes himself, "Harry Brayn," dated the 8th of July, in the 37th year of Henry VIII., 1545, to purchase so much of the property of the Priory as was situated in Bristol. To the enumeration of the tenements, tenants, and sums already given in the Ministers' Accounts, is annexed the following notice by Ralph Lambe, the Auditor's deputy:— "All the said Tenements lyeth within the Cytie of Bristoll forsaid & in the subarbs of the same where the Kinges highnes hath no more landes or Tenements other than ys abouesaid apperteynyng to any late howse of Relygion wtin my masters Circute. The Kinges grace ys also chargid with the Reperacions of the moste of the said Tenements Also theis be the firste perticlers that I haue made [to] any person of the same. Exr p' Rad'um Lambe deput' Mathie Coltehirste Audit." The Crown Officers reiterate the previously given value of iiijli xijs, and add :—"The teanure of all the premisses in Socage. Memord the Kyng must discharge the premisses of all incombraunces excepte leases & the xths being reserued & excepte suche charges as the ffermors ar bounde to discharge by force of there Indentures & also excepte such Reprs as been conteined within the perticlers hereunto annexid.

John Bakere Edward North Ric. Southwell.
Irror p' Joh'em Hanbye.*

The letters patent were hereupon granted, conveying to Henry Brayne, citizen and merchant tailor of London, and John Marsshe, for the sum of £739 15s. 2½d., divers possessions in Bristol, formerly belonging to the monasteries of Tewkesburye—"the Signe of the three Cuppes in Wyne strete"—Cirencester, Laycock, Braddenstok, the scite and

* Part. for Grants, Brayne Henry, sect. 2. mm. 5, 8, 9.

church of the Priory of S. Mary Magdalene in Bristol, S. James's Monastery in Bristol, Bathe, Keynsham, Henton, Witham, Clyve, Mynchynbarowe, and Canyngton; together with a tenement called "The Rose at Holborne Brige," in London, belonging to the monastery of S. Mary of Graces, and to that of Shene, &c. The property belonging to Mynchynbarowe is described, as we have already noticed, to be in the tenure of John Wylkes alias Chapman, Peter Panton, John Halle, Thomas Stapleton, and John Browne, the tenement called the Corner-house at Saynt Marye hille, one close called Tryne Mylles, now or lately in the occupation of Arthur Kemys, and a tenement called Seynt James Backe, with their appurtenances, together with all other tenements in Bristol or its suburbs, formerly belonging to the said late Priory. These tenements were of the clear annual value of £4 12s. 0d., and were to be held of the King, and his heirs and successors, in socage, by fealty only for all services whatsoever, and the grant was to take effect from the Michaelmas last past. The letters were dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 25th of September, 1545.*

The farm of a portion of the tithes of the Rectory of Twyverton, parcell of the possessions of the late Priory, leased to John Barbor, of Chewestoke, for a term of sixty years, and of which and the conditions annexed to it the reader has already had a minute description in the Decree of the Court of Augmentations, where they are recited, and in the Ministers' Accounts, from which the particulars are quoted, was requested for purchase by Sir Thomas Hennage. The Request bears the signature, declaratory of its accuracy, of the official auditor—"ex^{r} p' Mathiam Colte-

* Pat. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 5. mm. 38 (10)—34 (14). Orig. 37 Hen. VIII. p. 1. r. lxvij.

hirste Audit."* We have seen, however, that the bond of the Prioress and Convent in respect of this property was allowed to John Babor by the Court of Augmentations, on the 27th of November, 1542.

John Wyllyams requested to purchase a tenement with a water-mill at Mynchynbarowe, with all and singular its appurtenances, then or lately in the tenure of Margaret Crosse, widow, parcell of the possessions of the late Priory, and valued, as we have already noticed in the Ministers' Accounts, at a rent of xx^{s} a year. The particulars, however, although bearing the signature of Matthew Coltehirste, are cancelled, and the "fiat dimissio" is made to John Peyton, or, as on the dorse, Robert Payton, for a term of twenty-one years, on payment of a fine of £5 to Sir Thomas Arrundell. Appended is the order of the Court Officer for this alteration—"p' fn^{e} v^{li} Rychard Ryche."† I have found another order for a lease of the same property to John Peyton, for a similar term, bearing the signature of "Rychard Ryche," with the particulars attested "p' Mathiam Coltehirste Audit."‡ I have also found a copy of the lease to John Peyton still existing among the Records of the Court of Augmentations. It bears date at Westminster, the 29th of July, 34 Hen. VIII., 1542, and sets forth that the premises are leased to John Peyton for the term above stated, commencing from the Michaelmas next ensuing, at a yearly rent of twenty shillings of lawful English money, payable at the feasts of the Annunciation and Michaelmas, or within one month after either. If the rent were in arrear in part or in all for one month and duly demanded, the lease was to be void and held for naught.

* Part. for Grants, Hennage Sir Thomas, sect. 2. membr. 43.
† Particulars for Grants, Hen. VIII. Williams, D. 14.
‡ Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 194, f. 63.

The timber-trees and underwood growing on the property were reserved. The King was to keep the buildings in repair during the term, in timber only, from time to time; the said John Peyton to do all other necessary repairs. The lessee was to be exonerated of all annuities, and payments whatsoever issuing from the tenements, &c., and to have hedgebote, fyerbote, ploughebote, and cartebote, sufficient for his use.*

This completes the history of the Conventual property down to the time when it had passed by force into the hands of strangers.

I have but a word, for it is beyond my province, about the vicissitudes of the place from that time to our own. It descended successively through the families of Clerc, James, Dodington, and Gore, until in the present century it reached that of Blagrave, a member of which is now its possessor. The most conspicuous features of the spot I sketched at the commencement of the History. The Conventual buildings have been compelled to give place to the existing edifice which was erected soon after the Suppression. It is a plain and uninteresting structure, of three stories in height, and is popularly asserted to be in the form of the letter M, from having been erected in the reign of Queen Mary. The windows are large and rectangular, with stone mullions. Portions of the edifice, as the main entrance, are of the age of James the First, but the rest appears to be of the latter part of the foregoing century. A few fragments of stained glass in some of the windows, especially one with the figure of a male head surrounded by a cruciform nimbus, may have come from its predecessor, or still more probably from the Church, but

* Miscell. Books, Off. Augment. vol. 215, f. 35 b.

no part of the original fabric itself appears to be preserved. Beyond the house is a building now occupied by a farmer, of two stories, with a few pointed doorways. Further to the south is a picturesque edifice, used as a stable, with a doorway bearing shields without devices in the spandrels. Neither of these, however, seems to be older than what is ordinarily called Henry VIII's Gothic, and consequently may have been erected by the first grantee.

The only building that can be assigned with tolerable certainty to an age prior to the Dissolution is a fine old barn, with a high pitched roof and transept for doors, similar in kind, but not equal in excellence to many of those noble examples of Monastic Barns with which the Somersetshire Archæologist is happily familiar.

The Church stands on the north side of the enclosed lawn in front of the Court, and within a few yards of the mansion. Of this structure the tower alone is ancient, the other parts of the edifice having been rebuilt in the vile taste of the execrable Georgian era about forty years ago. I am indebted to the courtesy of the present Incumbent, the Rev. J. W. Hardman, L.L.D., for the information that it originally consisted of a nave, chancel, and south aisle (probably the Nuns' Church), with a tower at the west-end. At the rebuilding the chancel disappeared, and the Church now consists of two parallelograms of nearly equal breadth, connected by an arcade of three arches of Perpendicular character, which Dr. Hardman does not believe to be original. The tower, which he considers of the Early English period, has a Perpendicular window inserted over the west door, with the hood moulding finished in the form peculiar, or almost so, to this district. It was divided by a lath and plaster screen into a kind of porch. This Dr. Hardman has judiciously removed, and has thereby thrown open a fine

arch which before was completely closed and hidden. A noble slab, with an elegant incised cross of fourteenth century work, was removed at the same time into the Church from the church-yard, where another, of the same age but less ornamental character and much decayed, together with the base of the ancient cross, is still to be seen. There are three bells in the tower, but not of early date; one bears that of 1607. The Church contains some interesting monuments, but all of post-dissolution times.

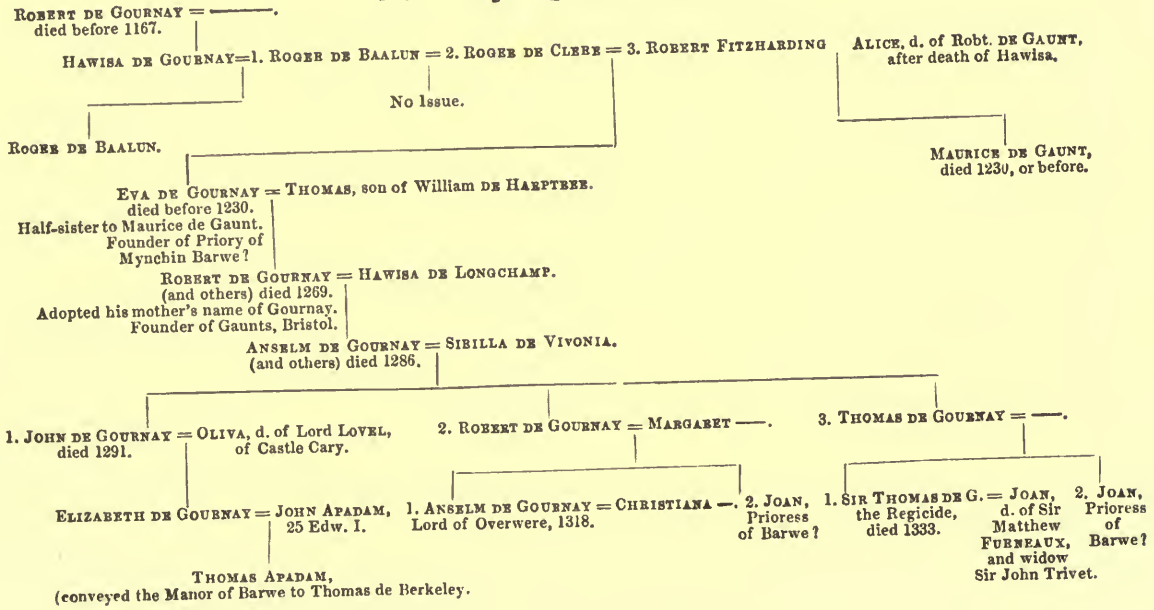
In reviewing the History of Mynchin Barrow, I would direct attention to the fact that we have here not only a picture of the numerous excellencies of the Monastic System, but also a specimen of those several blemishes which really constituted the defects of the female Communities of mediæval times. Even this latter peculiarity, however, is valuable, as it furnishes us with a knowledge of the actual state of such establishments, in contradistinction to those erroneous and distorted fancies in which the moderns have been pleased to indulge. For several centuries it has been sedulously endeavoured to be inculcated that the monasteries of mediæval England were so many focuses of impurity and iniquity, where lust and intemperance ruled supreme, and where the holy vows which preceded the abandoned life only made the contrast between each more fearful and repulsive. An examination of the annals which have been laid before the reader will tend to disabuse him of any such notion. The evils of the institution were such as perhaps may be inalienable from the institution itself. They were those which result from the inexperience of women in matters of secular business, and from the mark which the weakness of their sex naturally presents to the unscrupulous and aggressive. And their very worst features were ordinarily associated with that petty tyranny

and love of dominion which some individuals, when placed in a position to exercise such powers, are unable entirely to forego. When, however, we have admitted so much as this, which is common to all times, places, and institutions, we have admitted all. The atrocities which the moderns are fond of charging on these Societies were of the most unfrequent occurrence. That they happened occasionally is possible, but that they were the ordinary character and condition of the system is altogether opposed to fact. There cannot be any reasonable doubt of the truth of this assertion. For, be it remembered, no attempt was made to conceal such delinquencies, whenever they were perceived to exist by the vigilant eyes around. The Episcopal Registers contain minute information of the circumstances of the diocese of every imaginable kind, and any idea of suppression of the truth was never in the remotest degree entertained. Accordingly, such researches as the present furnish us with both positive and negative argument, positive of the presence and negative of the absence whether of good or of evil. Hence, if no mention be made of irregularities, we may fairly conclude that they were not in existence. The only way of arriving at correct conclusions, and, indeed, the only honest mode of conducting the investigations which may lead to them, is that of patient and careful study of the original records, wherein alone is exhibited an undistorted reflex of the actual original. This is our duty, in agreement with every dictate of that honour and impartial love of truth which a research of such a nature demands. Modern notions are nothing to us. The memorials of contemporary ages can alone fill up for us the picture, and present us with the veritable lines of a living likeness. And the character which it portrays is at length, I am happy to think, receiving more

and more of the homage which is its due—the character of those "who forgave men their faults, and tried to expiate them in their place,—gentle, feeble beings who had the wretchedness of those who are punished, and the smile of those who are rewarded." Men whose daily duties lie, like those of the writer of these pages, in the central depths of an enormous metropolis, can best tell the value of such an influence in directing the shameless to higher and better courses, in setting forth an example whereof the need is frightfully urgent, in showing that saintliness has charms with which no impure fascination may bear comparison, and in thus leavening the mass and staying the plague which is on every side. It is with a solemn sense of responsibility that I offer such a judgment, and feel as deeply that in these pleasant labours, illustrative of the working of the Divine Hand in the visible government of Holy Church, I am not only contributing to one of the fairest fields of secular literature, but, what is even and far better, am aiding the extension of sacred knowledge, the right interpretation of holy endeavour, and the reverent appreciation of the providence of God.

APPENDIX.

No. I.—Pedigree of Gournay.


Robert de Gournay = ——.
died before 1167.
Hawisa de Gournay=1. Roger de Baalun = 2. Roger de Clere = 3. Robert Fitzharding
Alice, d. of Robt. de Gaunt, after death of Hawisa.
No Issue.
Roger de Baalun.
Maurice de Gaunt, died 1230, or before.
Eva de Gournay = Thomas, son of William de Harptree.
died before 1230.
Half-sister to Maurice de Gaunt.
Founder of Priory of Mynchin Barwe?
Robert de Gournay = Hawisa de Longchamp.
(and others) died 1269.
Adopted his mother's name of Gournay.
Founder of Gaunts, Bristol.
Anselm de Gournay = Sibilla de Vivonia.
(and others) died 1286.
1. John de Gournay = Oliva, d. of Lord Lovel, of Castle Cary.
died 1291.
2. Robert de Gournay = Margaret ——.
3. Thomas de Gournay = ——.
Elizabeth de Gournay = John Apadam, 25 Edw. I.
1. Anselm de Gournay = Christiana —.
Lord of Overwere, 1318.
2. Joan, Prioress of Barwe?
1. Sir Thomas de G. = Joan, d. of Sir Matthew Fureaux, and widow Sir John Trivet.
the Regicide, died 1333.
2. Joan, Prioress of Barwe?
Thomas Apadam,
(conveyed the Manor of Barwe to Thomas de Berkeley.

No. II.

[E Reg. Drok. fol. lxxixb.]

Monic'o f'ca l'ratorie Priorisse de Bargh & Co'uentui eiusdem dom'.

Joh'nes p'm &c. dilc'e filie. d'ne . . Priorisse de Bargh n're dioc' salt'm gr'am & b'n. Mandam' vob' in v'tute obed'ie & s'b pen^{a} exco'is & suspensionis ab officio q^{a}tn' infra sc'ptas iniu'ctiones n'ras obs'uetis & p' om'es moniales v'ras nulli parcendo, faciat' inuiolabl'r obseruari. Vidz q'd Custodi rer' v'rar' p' nos deputato seu deputando sitis intendentes & contente f'cis suis licitis & honestis. It'm q'd vos . . priorissa, de negociis campestrib' & hi' sec'larib' q'cq^{a}m de cet'o no' intromittatis, ro'ne cui' s'uiciu' dei p'ponat^{r}, set p'ncipalit' cultui di'o & regimini soror' v'rar' diligent' & sollicite vacetis. It'm q'd vos . . priorissa & cet'e moniales sim'l comedatis & dormiatis nisi impedite fu'itis ex infirmitate v'l alia iusta causa. It'm q'd vos . . p'orissa no' concedatis cuiq^{a}m monialiu' v'rar' licenciam eundi in villam aut ex^{a} villam n' ex magna & legi'a causa, et q'd tunc bine incedant & in habitu moniali, et no' ad alia loca q^{a}' se extendit licencia se diu'tant quoquo modo, et vlt^{a} temp' licencie sue, se voluntarie no' absentent. Et q'd silenciu' obs'uet^{r} p'ut reg'la ear' req'rit. It'm q'd vos priorissa erga moniales v'ras vos moleste no' g'atis n^{c} aliqua monialis alt'i. sz in caritate & dil'cc'one vnanimit' viuatis. It'm q'd vos priorissa curetis diligent' & assidue q'd seruiciu' diuinu' sc'd'm reg'lam v'ram p' om'es moniales v'ras deuote fiat & debitis horis. Et q'd reg'la v'ra int' vos frequent' distincte & ap'te legat^{r}, ita q'd ab om'ibz intelligat^{r}. Dat' apud Chu. vj^{to} Kal'n Julij. anno d'ni sup^{a}d'co. [1315.]

No. III.

[E Reg. Drok. fol. lxxx.]

Joh'nes p'm' &c. dil'co s' in xp'o Will'mo de Suttone, salt'm &c. Quia piu' est & iuri consonu' p'sonis miserabilibz subuenire & eas in necessitatis tempore a suis miseriis releuare, considerata q' tua fidelitate & prudencia,

tibi curam seu c' administ^{a}cione' dom' n're monialiu' de Barwe n're dioc', quousq' hoc dux'im' reuocandu', p' p'sentes duxim' cōmittend', rogantes q^{a}t'n' te s^{t} in p'missis diligentem exhibeas, nos q' quociens op' fuerit sup' hiis que ad d'cam c'am p'tin'e dinoscunt^{r}, consulentes, vt ab eo qui o'im bonor' remun'ator existit & a nob' * * grar' acc'oes valeas p'm'eri. In cui' rei &c. Dat' die & loco p'x p'cedentibz. [apud Eu'c'z. Non. Julij anno d'ni suprad'co. 1315.]

No. IV.

[E Reg Drok. fol. cl.]

M^{d} q'd apud Banewelle xiij^{o} Kaln' Aug'ti, anno d'ni m^{o}.ccc^{o}. xvij^{o}. Et Cons' d'ni Joh'is dei grā Bathon' & Welln' Ep'i octauo. In capella d'ci d'ni Ep'i infra Cur' suam ibidē, d'ne Joh'na de Gornay, Agnes Sant de Marays, Milburga de Derneford, & Bacillid' de Sutton moniales de Barwe, p'fesse fuerunt p' d'ci d'ni Ep'i manuū imposicionē.

No IV*.—Page 12.

[MS. Harl. 6964, p. 59.]

16 Mar. 1320. Eccl. de Twyverton de patronatu Johanne Durdent Priorisse de Kyngton & Convent. Sarum dioc. appropriatur illis p' resign. Hugonis de Alresforde rectoris ejusd. Salva priorisse & monialibus de Barwe dioc. B.W. porcione decimarum quam infra parochiam d'ce eccl'ie de antiquo perceperunt. & salva vicaria p' nos statuenda perpetuo pro n're voluntatis arbitrio taxanda.

No. V.

[E Reg. Drok. fol. ccxxxv.]

Joh'es p'missione d'ina &c. P'orisse & Conuentui de Barwe n're dyoc' sal'. gr'am & b'n'. Miserie & paup'tati v're pat'na aff'cco'e co'pacientes, custodiam dom' v're ac poss'onū v'rar' q^{a}r'cu'q' viro p'uido & honesto d'no Will'o rectori ecc'e de Bacwell vicino v'ro l'ris n'ris duxim'

co'm^{t}tendā. Iniu'gentes ei'dm q'd d'cam dom' & poss'o'es v'ras sup'uideat. et p' vt'litate u'ra p'uide disponat de eisd'm. Cui vt u'ro custodi pareat' & intendat' ut est iustu'. Dat' ap' Wyuelesc' vij^{o} Id' ffebr'. a^{o} d'ni sup^{a}d'co. [1325.]

No. VI.

[E Reg. Drok. fol. cccb.]

Nos J. p'm' &c. Attenta d'ci p'orat' de Baruwe exilitate p'pt' qua' ip'i' p'orat' moniales no' consueueru't n^{c} pot'unt elecco'em vacante p'oratu facere in scriptis ad instar alior' religiosor' n're dioc' possessiones amplas mobibes & inmobiles optinenciu', p'pt' q'd elecco'em d'car' monialiu' de Barwe iux^{a} consuetudine' ear' hacten' f'cam p' easdem, nobis q' p' l'ras suas patentes more solito p'sentata', admisim' & ad electe confirmaco'em ne d'cus p'oratus p' diutina' vacaco'em pateret^{r} dispendiu' & iacturam p'cessim' in forma que sequit^{r} In dei no'ie am' Quia nos elecco'em monialiu' de Baruwe de d'na Basilia de Sutton moniali eiusde' n're dioc' p'fessa in p'orissa' eiusde' p'orat' d'ni Thome de Berkeleye patroni eiusde' loci hac vice int'ue'iente consensu i'uenim' iux^{a} consuetudine' ip'i' p'orat' concordit' p' om'ia celebrata' ip'am auc^{a}te pontificali confirmam', defectus si qui sint in forma elecc'onis p'd'ce eade' auc^{a}te grac'ose suplentes. [1328.]

No. VII.

[E Reg. Drok. fol. cccij.]

Ego Basilia de Sutton monialis de Barwe in p'orissam loci illi' electa confirmata ero obedie's vobis ven'abili p'ri d'no J. dei gr'a Bathon' & Well' ep'o v'risq' successoribz & s'cis Bathon' & Well' sedibz . . Officialib' ecia' v'ris & vices v'ras gerentib' in licitis & cano'icis mandatis. Sic deus me adiuuet & s'ca ei' eu^{a}ngelia.

No. VIII.

[Eschaet. 13 Edw. III. n. 37. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 128.]

Jurat' dicunt q^{d} Anselimus de Gourneye quonda' dn's m' de Inglescombe ffarnton et Westharptre dedit m' p'd'co

Thome filio suo et hered' de corp'e suo exeunt'. Et q'd post mort' ip'ius Thome, p'd'ca m' Thome filio eiusde' Thome. Et post mort' eiusde' Tho. fil' Thome fil' Anselmi p'fato Thome patri ip'ius Thome qui nu'c est. Et q'd p'd'cus Thomas nunc petens est fil' et heres p'd'ci Thome iam defunct' et etat' 21 Annor'. Et m' de Inglescombe [&] de ffarnton tenent' de Thoma de Gourney d'no de Estharpetre vtrumq' eor' p' sr' vni^us^ rose in fest' sc'i Jo : Bapt'i. Et m' de Westharpetre tenet' de d'no Ric'o Louell p' sr' duodene quarellar' p' ann'. So. 37.

No. IX.

[E Reg. Rad. fol. cccxxvj.]

Xiij Kal. Nouembr' anno quo sup^r^ [1348] Dn's apud Clau'ton confirmauit elecco'ne' facta' de Agnet' Balun moniale mon' de Barwe monialiu' in p'orissam eiusd'm mon' cano'ice celebrata' supplens defectus si qui forsitan fu'int in ead'm Sibi q' cura' regimen & administraco'em eiusd'm mon' comitt'. Et demand' fuit Arch'o Bathon' v'l ei' offic' p' installaco'e & inducco'e in corporale' poss'io'em eiusd'm.

No. X.—1.

[Esc. 35 Edw. III. p. 2. (2 nrs.) n. 20.]

Edwardus dei gr'a Rex Angl' Dn's Hib'n & Aquit' dil'co sibi Joh'i de Bekynton Escaetori suo in Com' Som's' salt'm. Precipim' tibi q'd p' sacr'm p'bor' & leg' hom' de balliua tua p' quos rei v'itas melius sciri pot'it diligent' inquiras si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' si concedam' Ric'o Dacton chiualer q'd ip'e octo mesuagia vnam shopam sex tofta decem acras p^a^ti & octo acras pasture cum p'tin' in Welles & in Barwegorney dare possit & assignare dil'cis nob' in xp'o Priorisse & monialibz de Munechenebarwe h'end' & tenend' sibi & successoribz suis ad inueniend' quendam Capellanu' diuina singulis diebz ad altare be' marie in eccl'ia priorat' p'd'ci p' salubri statu dil'ci & fidelis n'ri Guidonis de Bryan & ip'ius Ric'i dum vix'int & a'iabz suis cum ab hac luce mig^a^uerint ac animabz antecessor' suor' & o'im fideliu' defunctor' celebratur'

imp'petuu' necne. Et si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' tunc ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' n'rm & ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' alior' & quor' & qualit' & quo modo & de quo vel de quibz p'd'ca mesuagia shopa tofta pratu' & pastura teneant^{r} & p' quod s'uiciu' & qualit' & quo modo & quantu' p'd'ca mesuagia shopa tofta p^{a}tum & pastura valeant p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz iuxta veru' valorem eor'dem. Et qui & quot sunt medij int' nos & p'fatu' Ric'm de mesuagiis shopa toftis prato & pastura p'd'cis. Et que t're & que ten' idem Ric'us [*sic*] vlt^{a} donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas remaneant & vbi & de quo vel de quibz teneant^{r} & p' quod s'uiciu' & qualit' & quo modo & quantu' valeant p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz. Et si t're & ten' eidem Ric'o remanencia vlt^{a} donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas sufficiant ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mesuagiis shopa toftis prato & pastura sic datis q^{a}m de aliis t'ris & ten' sibi retentis debita faciend' & ad om'ia alia on'a que sustinuit & sustinere consueuit vt in sectis visibz ffranci plegij auxiliis tallagiis vigiliis finibz redempco'ibz amerciamentis contribuc'oibz & aliis quibuscumq' on'ibz em'gentibz sustinend'. Et q'd idem Ric'us in assisis iuratis & aliis recognico'ibz quibuscumq' poni possit p'ut ante donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas poni consueuit. Ita q'd p'ria p' donaco'em & assignaco'em illas in ip'ius Ric'i def't'm magis solito non on'et^{r} seu g^{a}uet^{r} Et inquisico'em inde distincte & ap'te f'cam nob' sub sigillo tuo & sigillis eor' p' quos f'ca fu'it sine dil'one mittas & hoc br'e. T. me ip'o apud Henlee. xxix. die Julij. Anno r' n' tricesimo quinto. Burst'

No. X.—2.

[Esc. 35 Edw. III. p. 2. (2. nrs.) n. 20.]

Inquisicio capta apud Bedmynstre coram Joh'ne de Bekynton Escaetore d'ni Regis in Com' Som's' die mercurij p'x' post festu' decollaco'is sc'i Joh'is Bapt'e anno regni Regis Edwardi t'cij post conq' Angl' t'cesimo q^{u}nto virtute br'is d'ni Regis huic inquisico'i [consuti] p' sacr'm Rob'ti Champeneys Joh'is Hurlemere Walt'i Tyler Will'i Fflemyng Joh'is in la Ffelde Whytyndon Joh's de Shepton Ric'i Ffrankeleyn Rob'ti Ffoul Will'i Whytsyth Walt'i Laurence & Joh'is atte Mulle qui dicunt sup' sacr'm suu' q'd non

est ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' d'ni Regis aut alior' licet idem dn's Rex concedat Ric'o Dacton chyualer q'd ip'e octo mesuagia vnam shopam sex tofta decem acr' p^{a}ti & octo acr' pasture cu' p'tin' in Welles & in Barewegorney dare possit & assignare dil'cis d'no Regi in X'po Priorisse & monialib' de Munechenebarwe h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' p'ut br'e istud requirit imp'p'm. Et dicunt q'd p'd'ca mesuagia shopa & tofta tenent^{r} de Ep'o Bathon' & Wellen' p' s'uiciu' reddendi eidem Ep'o iij^{s} p' annu' p' om'i s'uicio Et q'd p'd'ca p^{a}tum & pastura tenent^{r} de Margareta de Romesey p' s'uiciu' reddendi eidem Margarete vnu' clauu' geleofr' p' om'i s'uicio. Et q'd p'd'ca mesuag' shopa tofta p^{a}tum & pastura valent p' annu' in om'ibz ex' iuxta veru' valorem eor'dem lxx s. Et q'd p'd'cus Ep'us Bathon' & Wellen' est medius int' dn'm Regem & p'fatu' Ricu' de mesuagiis shopa & toftis p'd'cis. et q'd p'd'ca Margareta & Edwardus le Despenc' sunt medij int' dn'm Regem & p'fatu' Ric'm de p^{a}to & pastura p'd'cis Et q'd remanent p'fato Ric'o vltra donacionem & assignacionem p'd'cas maneriu' de Cheluy cu' p'tin' in com' p'd'co quod tenet^{r} de Joh'ne Branboys p' s'uiciu' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' xx li. quod quidem maner' remanens eidem Ric'o vltra donacionem & assign' p'd'cis sufficit ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mesuag' shopa toftis prato & pastura sic datis q^{a}m de t'ris & ten' sibi retentis debita faciend' & ad om'ia alia on'a que sustinuit & sustinere consueuit sustinend' p'ut br'e istud requirit. Et q'd idem Ric'us in assisis iuratis & alijs recognicoib' quibuscu'q' poni potest p'ut ante donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas poni consueuit. Ita q'd p'ria p' donaco'em & assignaco'em illas in ip'ius Ric'i def't'm magis solito non on'abit^{r} seu grauabit^{r}. In cu' rei testimoniu' tam p'd'cus Escaetor q^{a}m p'd'ci iurati huic inquisico'i indendato sigilla sua alt'natim apposuerunt. Dat' loco die & anno sup^{a}d'cis.

No. X.—3.

[Pat. 35 Edw. III. p. 3. m. 30.]

D' licencia dandi ad manu' mortua'

R' om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Licet &c. tamen p' decem libris quas Ric'us de Acton chiualer nobis soluit

concessim' & licenciam dedim' p' nobis & heredib' n'ris quantu' in nobis est eidem Ric'o q'd ip'e octo mesuagia, vnam shopam sex tofta decem acras prati & octo acras pasture cum p'tin' in Welles & Barwegorney dare possit & assignare dil'cis nob' in xp'o Priorisse & monialib' de Munechenbarwe, h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' quendam capellanu' diuina singulis dieb' ad altare b'e marie in eccl'ia Prioratus p'd'ci p' salubri statu dil'ci & fidelis n'ri Guidonis de Brian & ip'ius Ric'i dum vix'int & p' a'iab' suis cum ab hac luce mig^{a}uerint, ac a'iab' antecessor' suor' & o'im fideliu' defunctor' celebratur' imp'petuu'. Et eisdem Priorisse & monialib' q'd ip'e mesuagia, shopam, tofta, pratu' & pasturam p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fato Ric'o recip'e possint & tenere sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' capellanu' p'd'cm diuina singulis dieb' ad altare p'd'cm p' statu & a'iab' p'd'cis celebratur' imp'p'm, sicut p'd'cm est tenore p'senciu' similit' licenciam dedim' sp'alem. statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes q'd p'd'cus Ric'us vel heredes sui aut p'fate Priorissa & moniales seu ear' successores r'one statuti p'd'ci p' nos vel heredes n'ros seu ministros n'ros quoscu'q' occ'onent^{r} in aliquo seu g^{a}uent^{r}. Saluis tamen capitalib' d'nis feodi illius s'uiciis inde debitis & consuetis. In cuius &c. T R apud Westm'. xiiij. die Octobr.

No. XI.—1.

[Esc. 44 Edw. III. (2 nrs.) n. 46.]

Edwardus dei gr'a Rex Angl' & Ffranc' & Dn's Hib'n dil'co sibi Will'o Cheyne Escaetori suo in Com' Som's' salt'm Precipim' tibi q'd p' sacr'm p'bor' & leg' hom' de balliua tua p' quos rei v'itas melius sciri pot'it diligent' inquiras si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' si concedam' Ric'o de Acton militi Hugoni Penbrigg Joh'i de Panes Henr' Fforde Joh'i Torney de Woluynton Walt'o laurence Rob'to Scouille Will'o Scouille Ric'o Ffraunkeleyn Ric'o p'sone eccl'ie de Wroxale Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Bakwell & Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Cameleye q'd ip'i' vnu' mesuagiu' sexaginta & duodecim acras t're & septem acras p^{a}ti cu' p'tin' in Barouwe Gournay dare possint & assignare dil'cis nob' in x'po Priorisse & conuentui

de Barouwe ad inueniend' quandam lampadem in eccl'ia ip'ius Priorisse b'e marie de Barouwe coram su'mo altari in honore corporis ih'u x'pi continue ardentem, h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & conuentui & successoribz suis ad inueniend' lampadem p'd'cam vt p'd'cm est imp'p'm necne et si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' tunc ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' n'rm & ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' alior' & quor' & qualit' & quo modo & de quo vel de quibz mesuagiu' t'ra & p^{a}tu' p'd'ca teneant^{r} & p' quod s'uiciu' & qualit' & quo modo & quantu' valeant p' annu' in o'ibz exitibz iuxta veru' valorem eor'dem et qui & quot sunt medij int' nos & p'fatos Ric'm Hugone' Joh'em Henr' Joh'em Walt'um Rob'm Will'm Ric'm Ric'm Joh'em & Joh'em de mesuagio t'ra & p^{a}to p'd'cis et que t're & que ten' eisdem Ric'o Hugoni Joh'i Henr' Joh'i Walt'o Rob'to Will'o Ric'o Ric'o Joh'i & Joh'i remaneant vlt^{a} donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas & vbi & de quo vel de quibz teneant^{r} & p' quod s'uiciu' & qualit' & quo modo & quantu' valeant p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz et si t're & ten' eisdem Ric'o Hugoni Joh'i Henr' Joh'i Walt'o Rob'to Will'o Ric'o Ric'o Joh'i & Joh'i remanencia vlt^{a} donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas sufficiant ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mesuagio t'ra & p^{a}to sic datis q^{a}m de aliis t'ris & ten' sibi retentis debita faciend' & ad o'ia alia on'a que sustinuerunt & sustinere consueuerunt vt in sectis visibz franciplegij auxiliis tallagiis vigiliis finibz redempco'ibz am'ciamentis contribuco'ibz & aliis quibuscu'q' on'ib' em'gentibz sustinend' Et q'd ijdem Ric'us de Acton Hugo Joh'es de Panes Henr' Joh'es Torney Walt'us Rob'tus Will's & Ric'us Ffraunkeleyn & heredes ip'or' Ric'i p'sone Joh'is p'sone & Joh'is p'sone in assisis iuratis & aliis recognico'ibz quibuscu'qz poni possint p'ut ijdem Ric'us de Acton Hugo Joh'es de Panes Henr' Joh'es Torney Walt'us Rob'tus Will's & Ric'us Ffraunkeleyn & antecessores ip'or' Ric'i p'sone Joh'is p'sone & Joh'is p'sone ante donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas poni consueuerunt Ita q'd patria p' donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas in ip'or' Ric'i de Acton Hugonis Joh'is de Panes Henr' Joh'is Torney Walt'i Rob'ti Will'i & Ric'i Ffraunkeleyn & heredu' ip'or' Ric'i p'sone Joh'is p'sone & Joh'is p'sone def't'm magis solito non on'et^{r} seu g^{a}uet^{r} Et inquisico'em inde distincte & ap'te f'cam nob' sub sigillo tuo

& sigillis eor' p' quos f'ca fu'it sine dil'one mittas & hoc br'e T me ip'o apud Westm' xx die Julij anno r' n' Angl' quadragesimo t'cio r' v'o n' ffranc' tricesimo. Wynhop.

No. XI.—2.

[Esc. 44 Edw. III. (2 nrs.) n. 46.]

Inquis' capt' apud Bedmynstre in Com' Som's' coram Will'mo Cheyne Esc' d'ni Regis in eod'm Com' decimo die marcij anno regni Regis Edwardi t'cij a conq' Angl' quadragesimo quarto virtute br'is d'ni Regis huic inquis' consuti p' sacr'm Ric'i Cheyn Thome atte Mulle Will'i atte Pole Will'i Neel Joh'is Bailly de Bourton Thome Ffair Joh'is Sparkman Henr' Masseday Joh'is Richeman Ric'i Skappe Joh'is Skut & Joh'is Bysshopisworth qui dic' sup' sacr'm suu' q'd no' est ad dampnu' nec p'iudiciu' d'ni Regis nec alior' licet id'm dn's Rex concedat Ric'o de Acton militi Hugoni Penbrigg Joh'i de Panes Henr' Fforde Joh'i Torny de Woluington Waltero Laueraunce Rob'to Scouyle Will'o Scouill Ric'o Ffraunkleyn Ric'o p'sone eccl'ie de W[r]oxhale Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Backwell & Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Cameleye q'd ip'i vnu' mes' sexaginta & duodecim acr' t're & septem acr' prati cu' p'tin' in Barouwe Gournay dare possint & assignare dil'cis sibi in x'po Priorisse & conuentui de Barouwe ad inueniend' quandam lampadem in eccl'ia ip'ius Priorisse beate marie de Barouwe coram su'mo altari honore corp'is ih'u x'pi continue ardentem h'end' & tenend' eisd'm Priorisse & Conuentui & successoribz suis ad inueniend' lampadem p'd'cam vt p'd'cm est imp'petuu' Et dic' q'd mes' t're & p[a]tum p'd'ca tenean[t]r de Joh'e de Berkelee filio Thome de Berkelee p' s'uic' militar' et id'm Joh'es illa tenet de Edwardo le Despens' p' s'uic' militar' et idem Edwardus illa tenet de Rege in capite p' s'uic' militar' que quidem mes' t'r' & pratum p'd'ca valent p' annu' in om'ibz exit' iuxta veru' valorem eor'dem quadraginta solidos Et q'd non sunt plur' medij inter dn'm Regem & p'fatos Ric'm Hugone' Joh'em Henr' Joh'em Walteru' Rob't'm Will'm Ric'm Ric'm Joh'em & Joh'em de mes' t'r' & p[a]to p'd'cis. Et q'd remaneant p'fato Ric'o de Acton maneriu' de Thornfaucon cu' p'tin' quod tenet[r] de Joh'e Mohoun de Dunsterr'

p' s'uic' militar' & valet p' annu' in om'ibz exit' x. li. et d'co Joh'i de Panes vnu' mes' & vnam carucatam t're cu' p'tin' in Chattelee que tenet^{r} de Joh'e de Berkelee p' s'uic' militar' et val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' xl s. Et p'fato Henr' Fforde vnu' mes' & vnam carucatam t're cu' p'tin' in Fforde que tenent^{r} de Priore Bathon' p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' lxvj. s. viij. d. Et p'd'co Joh'i Torny de Woluyngton vnu' mes' & vnam carucatam t're cu' p'tin' in Woluyngton que tenent^{r} de Joh'e Moigne p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' lx. s. Et p'fato Waltero Laueraunce vnu' mes' & vnam carucatam terr' cu' p'tin' in Sprotraggel que tenent^{r} de Joh'e Rodeney p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz exit' xl. s. Et p'fato Rob'to Scouill vnu' mes' & vnam carucat' t're cu' p'tin' apud Clau'ton que tenent^{r} de Edwardo le Despens' p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' quatuor marcas Et p'fato Will'mo Scouill vnu' mes' & vna' carucat' t're cu' p'tin' in Broklegh que tenent^{r} de Rob'to de Asshtoun p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' xxviij s iiij d Et p'fato Ric'o Ffraunkleyn vnu' mes' & vnam carucat' t're cu' p'tin' in Bacwell [que] tenent^{r} de Joh'e Rodeney p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' xliijs iiijd que sufficiant ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mes' t'r' & p^{a}to sic dat' quam de alijs t'r' & ten' sibi retent' debita faciend' & ad om'ia alia on'a sustinend' p'ut br'e istud requirit Et q'd null' t'r' seu ten' remaneant p'fatis Hugoni Ric'o p'sone eccl'ie de Wroxhale Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Bacwell & Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Cameley que sufficiant ad on'a p'd'ca sustinend' p'ut idem br'e requirit In cui' rei testi'o'm p'd'ci Jur' huic inquis' sigilla sua apposuer' Dat' loco die & anno sup^{a}d'cis.

No. XII.

[Pat. 44 Edw. III. p. 2. m. 23.]

P' Priorissa & Conuentu de Barouwe R' o'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm Licet &c. tamen p' octo marcis quas dil'ca nob' in x'po Priorissa de Barouwe Gournay nob' soluit concessim' & licenciam dedim' p' nob' & heredib' n'ris quantu' in nob' est Ric'o de Acton militi Hugoni Penbrig' Joh'i de Panes Henr' fforde Joh'i Torney de Woluynton

Walt'o Laurence Rob'to Scouille Will'o Scouille Ric'o ffraunkeleyn Ric'o p'sone eccl'ie de Wroxale Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Bakwell & Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Cameleye q'd ip'i vnu' mesuagiu' sexaginta & duodecim acras t're & septem acras p^{a}ti cum p'tin' in Barouwe Gournay in Com' Som's' dare possint & assignare p'fate Priorisse & eiusdem loci conuentui ad inueniend' quandam lampadem in eccl'ia ip'ius Priorisse b'e Marie de Barouwe coram su'mo altari in honore corporis Ih'u x'pi continue ardente' h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui & successorib' suis ad inueni' lampadem p'd'cam in forma p'd'ca imp'petuu' Et eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e mesuagiu' t'ram & p^{a}tu' p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fatis Ric'o Hugone Joh'e Henr' Joh'e Walt'o Rob'to Will'o Ric'o Ric'o Joh'e & Joh'e recip'e possint & tenere sibi & successorib' suis p'd'cis ad inueniend' d'cam lampadem imp'petuu' sicut p'd'cm est tenore p'senciu' similit' licenciam dedim' sp'alem Statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes &c.—— debitis & consuetis. In cui' &c. T R apud Westm' xij. die Junij.

No. XIII.

[Pat. 44 Edw. III. p. 3. m. 17.]

P'Priorissa & Conuentu de Barwe

R' om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm Licet de co'i consilio regni n'ri Angl' statutu' sit q'd non liceat viris Religiosis seu aliis ingredi feodu' alicui' Ita q'd ad manu' mortuam deueniat sine licencia n'ra & capitalis d'ni de quo res illa inmediate tenet^{r} : de gr'a tamen n'ra sp'ali & p' centu' solidis quos dil'ca nobis in x'po Priorissa monialiu' de Barwe nobis soluit concessim' & licenciam dedim' p' nobis & heredib' n'ris quantu' in nob' est Joh'i Blanket de Bristoll' q'd ip'e duo mesuagia duas shopas & duo gardina eisdem shopis contigua cum p'tin' in villa Bristoll' & suburbio eiusdem que de nobis tenent^{r} in lib'um burgagiu' dare possit & assignare p'fate Priorisse & Conuentui eiusdem loci h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui & successorib' suis ad inueniend' panem & vinu' p' om'ib' missis ad su'mu' altare in eccl'ia ip'ar' Priorisse & Conuentus de Barwe celebrand' & alia op'a pietatis p' salubri statu ip'ius Joh'is dum vix'it et p' a'ia sua cum ab hac luce migrau'it & a'iab' parentu' &

amicor' suor' & o'im fideliu' defunctor' iuxta ordinaco'em eiusdem Joh'is faciend' imp'p'm Et eisdem Priorisse & conuentui q'd ip'i mesuagia shopas & gardina p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fato Joh'e recip'e possint & tenere sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' panem & vinu' pro om'ib' missis ad su'mu' altare in eccl'ia p'd'ca celeb^{a}nd' & alia op'a pietatis p' salubri statu ip'ius Joh'is dum vix'it & p' a'ia sua cum ab hac luce mig^{a}uerit & a'iab' parentu' & amicor' suor' & o'im fideliu' defunctor' iuxta ordinaco'em p'd'cam faciend' imp'p'm sicut p'd'cm est tenore p'senciu' similit' dedim' sp'alem statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes q'd p'd'cus Joh'es seu heredes sui aut p'fati Priorissa & conuentus seu successores sue r'one statuti p'd'ci seu p' eo q'd d'ca mesuagia shope & gardina de nobis tenent^{r} in burgagiu' sicut p'd'cm est p' nos vel heredes n'ros Justic' Esc' vic' aut alios balliuos seu ministros n'ros quoscumq' inde occ'onent^{r} molestent^{r} in aliquo seu g^{a}uent^{r}. Saluis tamen nobis & heredib' n'ris & aliis capitalib' d'nis feodi illius s'uiciis inde debitis & consuetis. In cui' &c. T R apud Westm' quarto die Nouemb'i

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No. XIV.—1.

[Esc. 3 Hen. IV. n. 8. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 305.]

Henrici Quarti Anno tertio.

Jurat' dicunt q'd Gilb'us Harelyue dedit Joh'i (*sic*) Panes nup' Priorisse de Barwe et suc' suis imp'p'm vnu' pratu' in Clauso vocat' Chapelmeade, contin' 11 acr' prati in Burghgorney sine licenc' Reg' So. 8.

No. XIV.—2.

[Pat. 5 Hen. IV., p. 1. m. 20.]

P' Priorissa & Conuent' de Barouwe Gournay.

R' om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm Sciatis q'd cum dn's E nup' Rex Angl' Auus n'r p' l'ras suas patentes concessisset & licenciam dedisset p' se & heredib' suis quantum in ip'o fuit Ric'o de Acton militi iam defuncto vt dicit^{r} & aliis q'd ip'i vnu' mesuagium sexaginta & duodecim acras t're & septem acras p^{a}ti cum p'tin' in Barouwe Gournay in Com' Som's'

dare possent & assignare Priorisse de Barouwe & eiusdem loci Conuentui ad inueniend' quandam lampadem in eccl'ia ip'ius Priorisse b'e marie de Barouwe coram su'mo altari in honore corporis Jhu X'pi continue ardentem h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui & succcessorib' suis ad inueniend' lampadem p'd'cam in forma p'd'ca imp'p'm Et eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e mesuagium t'ram & p^{a}tum p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fatis Ric'o & alijs recip'e possent & tenere sibi & successorib' suis p'd'cis ad inueniend' d'cam lampadem imp'p'm sicut p'd'em est licenciam similit' dedisset sp'alem Statuto de t'ris & ten' ad manu' mortua' non ponend' edito non obstante p'ut in eisd'm l'ris plenius continet^{r} Ac postmodum p'fate Priorissa & Conuentus supponentes quoddam clausum vocatum Chapelescroft & vnam acram t're in p'd'ca villa de Barouwe que valorem tresdecim solidor' & quatuor' denarior' p' annu' non excedunt vt dicit^{r} & quo p'd'cus Ric'us p' cartam suam p' nomen tocius illius t're & p^{a}ti iacent' in quodam clauso vocato Chapelescroft in Barouwe Gournay cum p'tin' & vnius acre t're cum p'tin' in eade' villa de Barouwe que quidem acra t're se extendit in longitudine v'sus parcum ville p'd'ce eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui dedit & concessit h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis imp'p'm in licencia p'd'ca comp'hensa extitisse cum non extitissent eadem clausum & vnam acram t're colore licencie p'd'ce ingresse fuissent & ea tenuissent & occupassent ac exitus & p'ficua inde p'cepissent quousq' iam tarde p'd'ca clausum & vna acra t're p' Joh'em Manyngford nup' Escaetorem n'rm in Com' p'd'co seisita fuerunt in manus n'ras ex causa p'd'ca vt accepim'. Nos ad supplico'em p'd'car' Priorisse & Conuentus de gr'a n'ra sp'ali p'donauim' eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui t^{a}nsgressionem qua' fecerunt adquirendo sibi & successorib' suis de p'fato Ric'o clausum & vnam acram t're p'd'ce cum p'tin' & ea ingrediendo tenendo & occupando ac exitus & p'ficua inde p'cipiendo licencia regia sup' hoc non optenta p'donauim' insup' concessimus & remisimus eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui forisf'curam clausi & vnius acre tr'e p'd'cor' cum p'tin' si qua ad nos occ'one adquisico'is ingressus & occupaco'is eor'dem p'tineat ac exitus p' ip'os vel p'decessores suos post ingressum p'd'cm inde p'ceptos Et vlt'ius concessimus p' nob' & heredib' n'ris quantu' in nob' est eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e clausum &

vnam acram t're p'd'ca cum p'tin' vna cum exitib' & p'ficuis inde p'ceptis reh'eant & teneant sibi & successorib' suis in auxiliu' sustentaco'is sue de dono & concessione n'ris imp'p'm Statuto p'd'co aut aliqua seisina siue forisf'cura inde f'ca seu aliquo alio iure vel titulo nob' in hac parte competenti vel competitur' non obstant'. Saluis tamen capitalib' &c.——— consuetis. Nolentes q'd &c.——— molestent^r in aliquo seu g^auent^r In cuius &c. T R apud Westm' xxix die Nouembr' p' ip'm Rege'

No. XV.

[From Bp. Bubwith's Register, f. lvij.]

Nich'us &c. Dil'ce in X'po filie d'ne Marg'ie ffitz Nichol moniali de Barwe nup' priorisse ib'm n're dioc' salt'm &c. Cum ad aures nup' n'ras p'uenit q'd tu obs'uancias tuor' ordinis & p'fessionis reg'lares obs'uare & subire nedū recusasti sicuti adhuc recusas, sz accidie dedita horis nocturnis et diurnis cu' com'ode pot'is int'esse distulasti & differs in p'senti In ai'e tue p'icl'm & regule tui ordinis p'dict' violaco'em manifest' Tibi igit^r mandamus firt' iniungentes quattin' horis nocturnis & diurnis iux^a ordinis & p'fessionis tuor' p'd'ct' obs'uancias reg'lares cu' com'ode pot'is senio v'l infirmitate corp'ali absentandi causam nullaten' mi'strante de cetero iux' reg'lam & obs'uancias p'dict' debite int'sis p'ut decet in futur' Dat' ap'd Keynsha'.

No. XV.*—Page 40.

[Esch. 14 Edw. IV. n. 41.]

Inquisic'o capt' apud Taunton' in Com' Som's' xxxj^mo die mensis Octobr' anno rr' Edwardi quarti post conq'm Anglie quartodecimo coram Ric'o Vouwell Eschaetore d'ci d'ni Regis in Com' p'd'co virtute br'is d'ci d'ni Regis eid'm eschaetori direct' & huic inquisico'i consut' p' sacr'm Joh'is Hygons armig'i Joh'is Gylbert armig'i Joh'is Bonuyle armig'i Joh'is Mauncell Joh'is Jrlond Ric'i Crypse Joh'is Rede Joh'is Tracy Joh'is Chafy Joh'is Ffourde Joh'is Walford & Thome Walton Qui dicunt sup' sacr'm suu' p'dict' q'd Mauricius Berkeley miles in d'co br'i no'iatus

tenuit die quo obijt in d'nico suo vt de feod' man'iu' de Barow Gurney cu' suis p'tin' in Com' p'dict' et Advocaco'em Prioratus Monialiu' de Mynchynbarow eid'm man'io p'tin' ac eciam vnam Carucat' t'r' continent' in se Centu' acr' t'r' decem acr' p^{a}ti decem ac'r pastur' octogint' acr' bosci triginta acr' subbosci cu' p'tin' ib'm et de tali statu idem Mauricius obijt inde s'situs que quid'm Man'iu' Advocacio & Carucata t'r' cu' p'tin' suis valent p' annu' in omnibz exitibz suis vlt^{a} repris' & on'a .vjli xiijs iiijd. Et q'd tenent^{r} de Georgio Duce Claranc' p' fidelitate' t'm p' om'ibz s'uicijs Et vlt'ius Jur' p'd'ci dicunt sup' sacr'm suu' p'd'em q'd p'd'cus Mauricius Berkeley nulla alia neqz plura t'r' neqz ten'ta reddit' seu s'uicia tenuit de dict' d'no Reg' nec de aliquo alio in d'nico nec in s'uicio in d'co Com' Som's' die' quo obijt. Et dicunt sup' sacr'm suu' p'd'em q'd p'd'cus Mauricius Berkeley obijt vicesimo sexto die mensis Marcij vltimo p't'ito Et q'd Will'ms Berkeley armig' est filius & heres p'd'ci Mauricij Berkeley militis p'pinquior et q'd est etatis viginti triu' annor' & amplius. In cu' rei testi'om Jur' p'd'ci huic Inquisico'i Indentat' sigilla sua apposuer' Dat' apud Taunton' p'dict' die & anno p'dict'.

No. XVI.

[Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 103. ff. 108, 108b.]

Memorand' q'd t'mino sc'i Mich'is videl't vicesimo septimo die Novembr' anno regni d'ni Regis nunc Henrici octaui tricesimo quarto, Joh'es Babo^{r} venit in Cur' d'ci d'ni Regis Augmentac'onu' reuenc'onu' corone sue, Et p'tulit ib'm quandam indentur' sub sigillo Conuentuali nup' monast'ij de Mynchynbarowe in Com' Som's' modo dissolut' fact' & sigillat', Et petit illam allocari cuius quidem indenture tenor sequit^{r} in hec v'ba. Om'ib' x'pi fidelib' ad quos p'sens Scriptum indentat' p'uen'it Isabella Cogan priorissa domus Monial' b'e Marie virginis & s'ci Edwardi Regis & Martiris de Mynchynbarowe in Com' Som's' & eiusdem domus Conuent' salt'm in d'no sempit'nam. Nou'itis nos p'fat' prioriss' & Conuent' vnanimi assensu consensu & voluntate nostr' concessisse tradidisse & hoc p'senti Scripto n'ro indentat' ad firmam dimisisse Joh'i Babo^{r} de Chewestoke in Com' p'd'co totam R'coriam n'ram de Twyu'ton in

Com' p'dict' ac orriu' n'rm ib'm cum om'ib' & omi'od' decimis tam fructuu' granar' & feni q^{a}m aliar' decimar' oblac'onu' obuenc'onu' & p'fic' R'corie p'dict' siue orrio p'dict' qualicumq' p'uenien' spectan' siue p'tinen', h'end' & tenend' R'coriam p'd'cam & orriu' p'd'cm ac cet'a p'missa sup'ius specificat' cum om'ib' & sing'lis eor' p'tin' p'dict' Joh'i Babo^{r} & assign' suis a festo An'u'ciaco'is b'e marie virginis p'x' futur' post dat' p'senciu' vsq' ad finem t'mini Sexaginta annor' tunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend'. Reddend' inde annuatim nobis p'fat' prioriss' & Conuent' ac success' n'ris durante t'mi'o decem annor' p'd'cor' Sexaginta annor' p'x' & i'mediate sequen' post dat' p'senciu' vnu' denar' ad fest' Annu'ciaco'is b'e Marie virginis tantum si petat^{r} Et post finem t'mini p'd'cor' decem annor' Tunc reddend' inde annuatim nobis p'fat' prioriss' & Conuent' ac Success' n'ris durante t'mi'o resid' p'd'cor' Sexaginta annor' tunc futur' viginti solidos bone & legalis monete Anglie ad duos anni t'mi'os ib'm vsual' videl't ad festa s'ci Mich'is Arch'i & Annu'ciaco'is b'e marie virginis p' equales porco'es p' om'ib' alijs s'uicijs saluo s'uicio Regal'. Et p'dict' Johe's Babo^{r} & assign' sui totum p'd'cm orriu' n'rm bene & competent' rep'abunt & quil't eor' rep'abit durante t'mi'o p'd'co sumptib' eor' p'prijs & expens'. Et si contingat p'd'cm redditum viginti solidor' aretro fore in p'te vel in toto p' quindecim dies post aliquod festum festor' p'd'cor' quo vt p'fert^{r} solui debeat insolut' & debit' modo petat^{r}, q'd tunc bene licebit nobis p'fat' prioriss' & conuent' ac Successorib' n'ris in p'd'cm orriu' cum p'tin' intrare & distring'e & districco'es sic ib'm capt' licite asportare abduc'e effugare & imp'care & penes se retinere quousq' de p'dict' reddit' simul cum arreragijs si que fu'it nobis plenar' fu'it satisfact' & p'solut' Et si contingat p'd'cm redditum viginti solidor' aretro fore in p'te vel in toto p' quatuor menses anni post aliquod festum festor' p'd'cor' soluco'is p'dict' quo vt p'fert^{r} solui debeat insolut' & debit' modo petat^{r}, q'd tunc bene licebit nobis p'fat' Prioriss' & Conuent' ac success' n'ris in p'd'cm orriu' cum p'tin' reintrare & p'dict' Joh'em Babo^{r} & assign' suos inde tot'lit' expellere & amouere, vnacum om'ib' alijs p'miss' p'dict' Joh'i Babo^{r} & assign' suis p'concess' & ea vt in pristino statu n'ro retinere & reh'ere ista dimiss' in aliqua non obstan'. Et nos v'o p'fat' Prioriss' & Conuent' ac Success' n'ri R'coriam p'dict' & orriu'

p'dict' ac cet'a p'miss' p'concess' cum om'ib' eor' p'tin' p'd'cis Joh'i Babor assign' suis modo & forma p'dict' durante t'mi'o p'd'co & t'mi's p'd'cis contra om'es gentes warrantizabim' acquietabim' & p' p'sentes defendemus. In cuius rei testimoniu' vni p'ti huius p'sentis Scripti n'ri indentati penes p'd'cm Joh'em Baborem remanen', Nos p'fat' Prioriss' & Couent' Sigillum n'rm Conuentual' apposuim'. Alt'i v'o p'ti huius p'sentis Scripti indentat' penes p'fat' Priorissam & Conuent' remanen' p'd'cus Joh'es Baborem sigillum suu' apposuit. Dat' in domo n'ra Capit'lari sextodecimo die mensis Marcij anno regni Regis Henrici octaui vicesimo quinto. Quequidem indentur' ac om'ia & sing'la in eodem content' & specificat' p' Concellariu' & Consiliu' Cur' p'd'ce allocantr. P'uiso tamen q'd si impost'um debit' modo p'bat' fu'it coram Cancellar' & Consilio Cur' p'd'ce p' tempore existen' q'd p'dict' Joh'es Baborem dict' dimiss' ro'ne & p'textu indenture p'dict' in forma p'dict' h'ere & gaudere non debeat q'd tunc hoc p'sens decret' vacuu' sit ac nullius vigoris in lege aliquo clauso siue artic'lo in eodem content' in contariu' inde non obstan'.

No. XVII.

[Off. Augment. vol. 244. n. 112.]

Rex omnib' ad quos &c. salt'm Cum nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarowe in Com' n'ro Som's' auctoritate Parliamenti supp'ssus et dissolut' existit vnde quedam Katerina Bulle tempore dissoluco'is illius et diu antea priorissa inde fuit nos volentes r'onabilem Annualem Penco'em siue p'moco'em condignam eidem Kat'ine ad victu' & exhibico'em suam melius sustinend' p'uideri Sciat' igitr q'd nos in consideraco'e p'missor' de gr'a n'ra sp'iali ac ex certa sciencia & mero motu n'ris p' aduisamentu' & consensu' Cancellar' & consilij Cur' Augmentac'onu' reuenc'onu' Corone n're dedim' & concessim' ac p' p'sentes damus & concedim' eidem Kat'ine quandam Annuitatem siue Annualem Penco'em Centum solidor' sterling' H'end' gaudend' & annuatim p'cipiend' eosdem Centum solidos p'fate Kat'ine & assign' suis a tempore dissoluco'is & supp'ssionis d'ci nup' Prioratus ad t'minu' & p' t'mi'o vite ip'ius Kat'ine tam p' manus Thesaurarij Curie n're p'd'ce p' tempore existen' de thesauro n'ro in manib' suis de reuenco'ib' p'd'cis re-

manere contingen' q^{a}m p' manus Receptor' partic'lariu' reuenc'onu' p'd'car' de eisdem reuenco'ib' ad festa Annu'ci-co'is b'e Marie Virginis et sancti Mich'is Arch'i p' equales porco'es omi'o soluend' Eo q'd exp'ssa mencio &c. In cui' rei &c.

Richard Riche
Tho. Pope
John Onley
Robert Sowthwell

Irro^{r} T xiiij die ffebruarij A^{o}xxviij h viij

No. XVIII.

[From the Minister's Accounts, 27-28 Hen. VIII.]

Et debt—xvli xiiijs vjd D' quibz exo^{r} hic de xli xd ob–ut de tot den'ijs p' Kat'inam Bowell nup' prioriss' ib'm de Exit' Offic' p'd'ci–rec' ad vsum & necessit' hospic' sui p' prima me^{te} huius ann' & expendit' in eod'm hospic' ante primu' aduent' Comiss' d'ni R' illuc q'd erat xxvj die Maij d'co anno xxviij^{uo} p'ut eisd'm Comiss' no' solu' p' sacr'm d'ce prioriss' set ecia' p' debit' exami'ac' inde adtunc & ib'm fact' sat' constab' ET O^{r} in Comp'o d'ce Prioriss'. De xxxjs vjd de consi'lib' den'ijs p' ip'am rec' de Exit' eiusd'm Offic' ad necc' sustent' hospic' s' p'd'ci a d'co xxvj^{to} die Maij usq' dissoluc' d'ci priorat' quod erat xix^{no} die Sept. eod'm anno xxviij^{uo} sciz p' spaciu' xx^{ti} Septim' ex recognic' s' in libr' Re^{te} s' de eod'm temp'e sup' hunc Comp'm exami'at.

No. XIX.

[Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 205. f. 24.]

Mynchynbarowe in Com' Som's' — In declaraconib' siue Valor' capt' de terr' & Tent' ac al' possess' t^{a}m sp'ual' q^{a}m temp'al' int' al' cont^{r} sic ut sequit^{r}

vjli xiijs iiijd vz

Rector' de Mynchyn-barow.

val'in { Decim' lan' & agnell & xljs vijd; al' p'ficuis eid'm Rector'; p'tin' Co'ib' ann' } viijli xiiijs xjd

repris' in { Sinod' & p'curaco'b' ann^{ti} sol' Ep'o Bathon' .. .. vijs vjd

Et rem' clar' ult^{a} Repris' p'dict' viijli vijs xjd

Me^{d} that the same p'sonage is to be charged w^{t} the Stipend of a p'ste there oute of the same so'me of viijli vijs xjd yerely

resp^{r} p'cess'

Ex^{r} p' Will'm Turno^{r} Audit' ib'm

fiat dimissio Joh'i Drewe de villa Bristoll ar' Ir' &c. vt sup^{a}.

No. XX.

[Abstract of Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 27. mm. 27 (24)—25 (26)]

P' Will'o Clerk de con' sibi & hered' Rex omnibus ad quos &c. salt'm. Cum nos p' quandam Indenturam sub magno Sigillo n'ro Cur' n're Augmentaconu' reuenconu' Corone n're confect' gerent' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo die Marcij Anno Regni n'ri vicesimo octauo p' aduisament' &c. tradiderim' concesserim' & ad firmam dimiserim' Joh'i Drewe de villa Bristoll armig'o domu' & Scitum nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarrowe in Com' Som's' auctoritate p'liamenti suppressi & dissolut' vnacum om'ibz domibz edificiis orreis stabulis columbar' ortis pomeriis gardinis terr' & solo infra Scitum & p'cinctum dict' nup' Prioratus existen' Ac viginti octo acras terr' arabilis p' estimaco'em siue plus siue minus inde h'eatur viginti sex acras prat' p' estimaco'em siue plus siue minus inde h'eatur & viginti octo acras pastur' p' estimaco'em siue plus siue minus inde h'eatur d'co nup' Prioratui spectan' et p'tinen' Except' inde a nob' hered' et successoribz n'ris om'ino res'uat' om'ibz grossis arboribz & boscis p'miss' ac om'ibz talibz et huiusmodi edificiis infra Scitum et p'cinctum dict' nup' Monast'ij que nos ibidem adtunc imposter' prosterni & auferri mandauerim'. H'end' & tenend' om'ia & sing'la p'missa cum p'tin' except' preexcept' p'fat' Joh'i & assign' suis a festo sc'i Mich'is Arch'i adtunc vltimo preterito vsqz ad finem termini & p' terminu' viginti & vnius annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenarie complend'. Reddend' inde annuatim nob' hered' & successoribz n'ris Centum & vnu' Solidos & octo denarios legalis monete Angl' ad festa Annu'ciaco'is beate Marie virginis et sc'i Mich'is

Arch'i vel infra vnu' mensem post vtrumqz festum festor' illor' ad Curiam p'd'cam p' equales porco'es soluend' duran' termino p'd'co p'ut p' eandem Indenturam int' alia plene apparet. Sciatis q'd nos p' su'ma Centum & sexaginta librar' legalis monete Angl' ad manus Thes' n'ri &c. p' dil'cm nob' Will'm Clerc gen'osu' solut' de qua quidem su'ma &c. exoneratos esse p' p'sentes de gr'a n'ra sp'iali ac ex c'ta sciencia & mero motu n'ris dedim' & concessim' ac p' p'sentes dam' & concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc reu'sionem & reu'siones p'dict' domus & Scitus dict' nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarowe ac p'd'cor' domor' edificior' ortor' pomerior' gardinor' columbar' stabulor' terrar' prator' pasturar' & ceteror' o'im & singl'or' p'missor' sup'ius p' p'd'cam Indenturam p'fat' Joh'i Drewe vt p'fert' dimissor' Necnon totum p'd'cm a'nuu' reddit' Centum vnius solid' & octo denarior'. Dam' etiam & p' consideraco'e p'd'ca p' p'sentes concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc totum domu' et Scitum dict' nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarowe ac om'ia domos edificia orrea stabula columbar' ortos pomeria gardina stagna viuaria terr' et solu' n'ra quecu'qz infra Scitum septum ambit' circuitum et p'cinct' eiusdem nup' Prioratus existen'. Necnon om'ia illa terr' prata pastur' et hereditamenta n'ra quecu'qz vocat' lez demeane landes dict' nup' Prioratus continen' p' estimaco'em octoginta & duas acras iacen' et existen' in Mynchynbarowe in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'co nup' prioratui dudum spectan' et p'tinen' et p'cell' possessionu' inde existen' ac cum p'd'co Scitu dict' nup' Prioratus p'fat' Joh'i Drewe dimiss' seu locat'. Acetiam totam terr' n'ram et boscum n'rm vocat' Mynchynbarowe grove continen' p' estimaco'em sex acras iacen' et existen' in Mynchynbarowe in p'd'co Com' Som's' d'co nup' Prioratui dudum spectan' et p'tinen' ac p'cell' possessionu' eiusdem nup' Prioratus existen'. Damus vlt'ius et p' consideraco'oe p'd'ca p' p'sentes concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc totum illud man'iu' n'rm de Mynchynbarowe Et totam Rectoriam n'ram & eccl'iam n'ram de Mynchynbarowe cum om'ibz et sing'lis eor' iuribz membris et p'tin' vniu's' in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'co nup' Prioratui dudum spectan' & p'tinen' ac p'cell' &c. Necnon aduocaco'em donaco'em liberam disposico'em et Jus p'ronatus vicarie et eccl'ie de Mynchynbarowe in d'co Com' Som's' d'co nup' Prioratui dudum spectan' et p'tinen' Ac om'ia & sing'la mesuagia

grangias molendina tofta cotagia terr' ten'ta prata pascuas pastur' co'ias vasta iampna bruer' mariscos aquas piscar' boscos subbosc' &c. &c. Necnon cur' let' visus franc' pleg' catalla &c. extrahur' feod' firmas a'nuitates penco'es porco'es decimas &c. et om'ia alia n'ra p'ficua co'moditates emolumenta &c. situat' &c. in Mynchynbarowe ac d'co man'io et d'ce Rectorie et eccl'ie quoquo modo spectan' vel p'tinen' —adeo plene et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma p'ut vltimus prior dict' nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarowe aut aliquis vel aliqui p'decessor' suor' &c. h'uerunt tenuerunt vel gauisi fuerunt &c. Que quidem domus et Scitus dict' nup' Prioratus' ac p'd'cm Man'iu' Rector' mesuag' terr' tent' et cetera om'ia & sing'la p'missa cum p'tin' modo extenduntr ad clar' annuu' valorem quindecim librar' octodecim solidor' et vnius denarij. H'end' tenend' et gaudend' p'dict' reu'sionem et reu'siones p'dict' domus et Scitus dict' nup' Prioratus &c. necnon p'd'ca man'iu' Rectoriam &c. &c. p'fat' Will'o Clerc hered' & assign' suis imp'p'm. Tenend' de nob' heredibz et successoribz n'ris in capite p' s'uiciu' vicesime p'tis vnius feodi militis, Ac reddend' inde a'nuatim nob' hered' & successoribz n'ris triginta vnu' solidos & decem denarios sterling' ad Curiam n'ram Augment' reuenc'onu' Corone n're ad festum sc'i Mich'is Arch'i sing'lis annis soluend' p' om'ibz redditibz s'uiciis & demand' quibuscumqz p'inde nob' hered' vel successoribz n'ris quoquo modo redden' soluen' vel faciend' Et vlt'ius &c. damus &c. p'fat' Will'o Clerc om'ia exit' redd' reuenco'es et p'ficua p'dict' &c. cu' p'tin' a festo Sc'i Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p'terito hucusqz p'uenien' siue crescen' h'end' eidem Will'o Clerc ex dono n'ro absqz comp'o seu aliquo alio p'inde nob' heredibz vel successoribz n'ris quouismodo reddend' soluend' vel faciend' Et insup' &c. exonerabim' acquietabim' et indempnes conseruabim' tam eundem Will'm Clerc heredes & assign' suos qam p'dict' man'iu' Rectoriam mesuag' terras &c. de om'ibz & om'i'od' corrodiis redditibz feodis annuitatibz penco'ibz et denar' su'mis quibuscumq p'terqam de reddit' & s'uicio sup'ius reseruat' Et p'terqam de vadeo & stipendio vnius capellani a'nuatim diuina celebran' et curam obseruan' in eccl'ia p'ochiali de Mynchynbarowe p'dict' Ac p'terqam de om'ibz aliis oneribz que aliquis firmarius p'missor' seu alicuius inde p'celle tenetr soluere aut quoquo modo exonerare.

—Et vlt'ius &c. concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc hered' & assign' suis q'd h'ebunt tenebunt & gaudebunt ac in vs' suos p'prios conuertent d'cam Rectoriam et eccl'iam de Mynchynbarowe ac om'ia terr' glebas decimas oblaco'es & cetera p'ficua eidem Rectorie & eccl'ie spectan' et p'tinen' adeo plene & integre &c. p'ut vltimus Prior &c. vel aliqui p'decessor' suor' &c. h'uerunt tenuerunt vel gauis' fuerunt aut in vsus suos p'prios conuertebant &c. Volum' etiam et p' p'sentes concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc q'd h'eat & habebit has l'ras n'ras patentes sub magno sigillo n'ro Angl' debito modo fact' & sigillat' absq' fine seu feod' magno vel paruo nob' in hanap'io n'ro seu alibi ad vsum n'rm p'inde quoquo modo reddend' soluend' vel faciend'. Eo q'd expressa mencio &c. In cuius rei &c. T R apud Westm' xxij die Maij

p' br'e de priuato sigillo

T. H.

ADDITIONS.

Page 8.—At the assizes held at Cherde, on Tuesday, the feast of S. John the Evangelist, 29 Edward I., the 27th of December, 1300, a cause was tried whether Alice the Prioress had unjustly disseised William de Odyham and Alice his wife of their free tenement in Barewe, and thereby as it was complained, of ten shillings of rent. The Prioress did not appear, and the assize was taken against her by default. The jury, further, presented on their oath, that one John de Gurney gave the rent aforesaid to one Nicholas de Apperleye, the first husband of the aforesaid Alice, and to Alice herself, to be held for the term of their joint lives; that the aforesaid Nicholas and Alice were in seisin thereof for the whole life of Nicholas; that, some while after his decease, William and Alice had been prevented by the Prioress from levying a distress for arrears of rent, in the tenement from which the aforesaid rent was derived, and that so she had unjustly disseised them. Judgment was for the plaintiffs, who were to recover seisin, together with their damages, which were taxed at forty shillings.*

Page 11.—The pension of the Nuns of Barwe from the Church of Twyverton is mentioned in a writ, dated, witness W[illiam], Bishop of Norwich, at Westminster, the 1st of July, 1318, ordering the collection of monies in arrear from various Houses and ecclesiastical persons, where the sum of xvj^{d} is commanded to be levied from them as their contribution from such pension.†

* Rot. de Jur. et Assis. 29 Edw. I., $\left.\begin{matrix} \text{N} \\ 2 \\ 10 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 5. m. 20.

† Reg. Drok. f. cvij b.

Page 12.—Add to note *, Appendix, No. IV.*

Page 14.—The following is the text of the Bishop's letter :—

Co'missio p' custodia p'orat' de Barwe.

Joh'es p'missio'e d'ina Bathon' & Wellen' Ep'c' dil'co in x° filio Rectori ecc'e de Bacwell n're dyoc' sal' gr'am & b'n'. paup'tate religiosar' m'lier' de Barwe & ip'ar' P'orisse insufficia'. n^cno' locor' de Bacwell & de Barwe p'pinq'tate considerat'. vob' de c' ho'estate & fid'litate & indust'a plena' fiducia' optinem', dom' & poss'onu' ear'd'm custodiam co'm^tim' p' p'sentes. vob' in v'tute obed'ie f'mit' i'iu'gendo, q^atin' p' co'siliu' d'nar' s'bpriorisse loci & Basilie de Sutton' & disc^eco'em vob' a d'o data' de dicta domo & poss'o'ibz suis q'buscu'qz p' vt'litate ear'de' m'lier' disponat' p'ut viderit' for' faciend'. On'osam ecia' fam'liam ac al' p^as in ead' domo p'he'dina'tes quas ip'is i'utiles e'e viderit' q°ciens op' fu'it penit' amoueat'. Cont^ad'cores & rebelles in hac p'te si quos i'uen'itis p' q^ascu'qz censur' ecc'asticas co'pescendo, ad que o'ia & sing'la vt p'missu'. facienda et expedienda vob' co'mittim' vices n'ras cu' coh'co'is cano'ice p^tate q°usz eas dux'im' reuoca'das. Dat' apud Wyuelesc', vij° Idus ffebr'. anno d'ni M° CCC^mo. xxiiij^to. et cons' n're Sextodeci'o.*

Page 15.—These proceedings are given in the Register as follows :—

Cessio. .P'orisse de Barwe.

Memo^d q'd cu' Joha'na P'orissa de Barwe ac d'ne Agn' de S'ca c^uce & Basil'deSutton' p' se & co'uentu diem h'uissent cor' d'no ex p'fixione . . offic' ad co'p'end' i' man'io suo de Ban' vidz p'x^m dic' Jurid' p° f'm Jnue'co'is S'ce C^ucis ad aud' p'nu'ciaco'm d'ni s'r q'bzd' i' visit'oe i' p'oratu de Barwe p' d'cm . . offic' p'd'ci d'ni Co'missariu' in h^a p'te sp'iale' nup' exc'cita comp'tis. co'p'ueru't p'^alit' vna cu' q'bzda' al' mo'ial' d'ci p'oratus & recitat' q'bzd' articul' p'sona' . . p'orisse sp'ial'r tangentibz : ip'a . . p'orissa pure spo'te & absolute cessit p'oratui cora' d'no tu'c ibid'm. Et d'ns inhibuit s'b pena exco'is q' n'lla mo'ial' ibid'm tu'c p'sens alit' seu aliq'bz deteg'et que fiebant tu'c ibid'm, q°usz

* Reg. Drok. fol. cccxxxv.

ip'is mo'ialibz c'tus dies darer p' d'nm ad eligend'. Et delibatu' est p' d'nm q'd scrbatr supp'orisse d'ce dom' & Co'uentui q'd die Jouis v'l die ven'is p'xa p' f'm s'ci Joh'is ante porta' latina' iuxta cano'icas s'cciones & consuetudi'em P'orat' ad elecco'em p'ceda't & p'oratui p'uideant desolato. p'sentibz mag'ris R. & J. de Wamb'g & Ad' de Rushton' p'd'ci p'ris cl'icis. Et md q'd p'mit' s'bmiseru't se ta' P'orissa qa cet'e mo'iales ordi'aco'i d'ni alte & basse. sup' statu dom' ac P'oris se & cet'ar' co'mo'ialiu' d'ci p'orat'.*

Page 16.—The Bishop's letter "a latere" is a very remarkable one. It was as follows:—

L'ra a lat'e dircta d'cis Co'missar'.

Salt'm gr'am & b'n. Si p' l'ras p'b'ones vob' constare pot'it de dissensu patroni de Barwe p'qa ip'ius consensus fu'it debite requisit', ad confirmaco'em electe ibid'm no' obstante d'ci patroni contradicc'one. dumtu' aliud cono'icum eleco'i v'l electe no' obsistat. p'cedat' iuxa cano'icas sancc'ones. Valt' Scrpt' apud Wyuel' s'b p'uato secreti n'ri .iijo. Non.' Octobr'.†

Page 17.—The following is the account of the circumstances, as contained in the Bishop's letter to the Archdeacon of Bath:—

Littera monico'is & citaco'is d'ne Joh'e de Gornai monialis de Barwe.

J. p'miss' d'ia &c. dil'co fil' . . Arch' n'ro Bathon' v'l ei' . . offic' salt' &c. Licet Nos alias vob' l'ris n'ris dederim' i' ma'dat' q'd d'nam Agn' de S'ca Cruce el'cam conf'mata' p'orat' de Barwe n're dioc' in corp'ale' posso'm dicti p'oratus iuriu' & p'tinenciar' eiusd'm induceretis vel faceretis induci contradictores & rebelles p' censuras eccl'asticas canonice conpescendo. vos tame' postmodu' l'ris v'ris certificatoriis nob' resc'psistis. q'd quedam Joh'na de Gornay monialis d'ci prioratus vos in execuc'one mandati n'ri p'd'ci installac'oni d'ce d'ne Agnet' tam vob' qa' p'fate Agnet' p'tinacit' resistendo & in stallu' d'ce Agnet' p'orisse se intrudendo & d'cm stallu' occupando in n'ri conte'ptum manifestu' malic'ose impediuit conta qua' mandatu' n'rm p'd'cm occ'one rebellionis ip'ius & offense no'

* Reg. Drok. fol. ccxxxix.
† Reg. Drok. fol. ccxlj.

estis executi. de quo vehement' admiram^r. vobis ma'dam' in v'tute obed'ie & sub pena canonica f'mit' iniu'gentes quatin' moneatis & efficacit' inducatis p'd'cam Joh'nam de Gornai. q'd ab hui'modi temeritate presu'pta om'o desistat. ac d'ce p'orisse sue iux^a eff'cm mandati n'ri nup' supp'orisse & co'uentui d'ci p'oratus de Barwe pro ip'a p'orissa sua p'd'ca dir^cti obediat & intendat alioquin post hi' monic'ones v'ras quas eid'm Joh'ne iux^a qualitate' negocij fieri volum' ip'am Joh'nam tam diu exco'icetis. & exco'icata' esse denu'cietis quousqz a nob' aliud recep'itis in mandatis. Citantes nichilo'n' eand'm Joh'nam q'd comp'eat cor' nob' v'l n'ris co'missar' in eccl'ia p'och' de Wyuelescu'be terc'o die Juridico post f'm S'ci Gregorij p^ape sup' contemptu huiusmodi & inobediencia ac interrogatoriis eid'm faciendis responsura & si n'cce fu'it p'sonal'r iuratura vlt'iusqz factura & recept^ra q'd erit iustu'. Et quid in p'missis feceritis nos ad diem certificet' modo debito & co'sueto. Dat' ap'd Wyuelescu'be xj° Kl'n Marcij. Anno d'ni mill'imo CCC^mo vicesimo q'nto. Et cons' n're xvij° sub sigillo officij Offic' n'ri co q'd sigilla n'ra ad man' p'ata tu'c no' h'uimus.*

Page 20.—A certificate of the publication of the Primate's intended visitation of the Nunnery of Barewe, among the other Religious Houses of the Diocese of Bath and Wells, is dated at Evercrich, III. Id., the 11th, of December, 1331.†

Page 20.—At the assizes held at Somerton, on Friday, the vigil of S. Laurence, 10 Edward III., the 9th of August, 1336, a cause was tried whether Roger le Toukere and Agnes his wife, and Richard Richeman and Cecily his wife had unjustly disseised the Prioress of Barwe of her free tenement in Barwe Monialium, and thereby, as she complained through John de Walle, or Wellegh, her attorney, of twelve shillings of rent. John Pecok answered for Roger and the rest, and said that one Thomas le Muleward, the father of the aforesaid Agnes and Cecily, was

* Reg. Drok. fol. ccxlviij.
† Reg. Rad. f. xliij b.

seised of one mill and twelve acres of land, the right of which after his decease descended to the aforesaid as his daughters and heiresses, between whom the tenements aforesaid were divided, and that each of them made attornment of her tenancy to the aforesaid Prioress, etc. An assize was thereupon fixed to be taken at Cherde, on Saturday, in the first week of Lent, but was not so taken through default of the recognizances by absence. After other adjournments the case was finally disposed of. The jury returned a verdict on oath, that Roger and the others had unjustly disseised the Prioress of the aforesaid rent, as she had alleged above in her plaint, to her damage of forty shillings. Judgment was accordingly for the Prioress, that she should recover seisin of the rent and damages aforesaid.*

Page 28.—At a gaol delivery at Yvelcestre, on Monday in the fourth week of Lent, 46 Edward III., the 8th of March, 1372, John Spryngand and John Walishman were indicted before Matthew de Clyvedon and his fellows, for having on the Friday next before the feast of S. Peter ad Vincula, in the 44th year of Edward III., the 26th of July, 1370, at Barwe, feloniously taken and led away one cart-horse, worth eight shillings, belonging to Robert Chesman, and for having committed a number of other felonies in Bakwell, Telesford, Wrytelyngton, Ffernebarwe, Lamedon, &c. The prisoners pleaded not guilty, and the jury returned on oath a verdict in their favour.†

* Plac. de Jur. et Assis. 10 Edw. III., N 2 20 4. mm. 86, 84 dors.

† Delib. Gaol. 46 Edw. III., N 3 2 1. m. 28.

Page 28.—See also, for the history of the manor, Pat. 44 Hen. III., m. 6 dors. Ped. Fin. Somers. 9—14 Edw. III., n. 92. Ped. Fin. Somers. 15—20 Edw. III., n. 21. Pat. 1 Ric. III., p. 2. m. 23. n. 159.

Page 29,—The return of the subsidy for the 51st year of Edward III., 1377, furnishes us with the names of the entire Community. Joan Panys was the Prioress, and with each of her Sisters, Matilda Rosselle, Isabel Polleyn, Joan Horne, Isabel le Valeys, Christina Rodeneye, and Margery Hulle, was taxed in xij^{d}. The letter of John, Bishop of Bath and Wells, to the Abbat of Keynsham, authorising the collection of the subsidy, was dated at Evercrich, the 2nd of April, 1377.* I hardly need add that among the family names of these ladies are some of the best that the western counties could produce.

Page 30.—At Yevelchestre, on Monday next before the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, 12 Richard II., the 10th of August, 1388, a case of Joan, Prioress of Mynchenbergh, against Richard de Acton, chivaler, and others, in a writ of plea of assize of novel disseisin, was essoined to Friday next before the feast of S. Patricius, Bishop, at Yevelchestre.† I presume that the matter was privately arranged, as no mention of it occurs among the proceedings of the assizes indicated.

Page 30.—The Prior and Convent of Taunton, appointed by the Bishop, in a letter dated at Woky, the 11th of October, 1394, to collect one moiety of the disme, granted in the 17th year of Richard II., prayed allowance of sums charged on certain benefices, and, among them, of xvj^{d}

* Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{2}$.

† Plac. de Jur. et Assis. Somers. 12 Ric. II., $\left.\begin{matrix} N \\ 2 \\ 32 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 1. m. 223.

from the Prioress of Barowe, for her pension in the Church of Twyverton.*

Page 31.—At Yevelchestre, on Thursday next before the feast of S. Laurence, 4 Henry IV., the 9th of August, 1403, Elen, wife of John Russell, appointed the said John as her attorney against Margery, Prioress of Barwe, and others in a writ of plea of assize of novel disseisin.† The case was essoined to that day from Wednesday next after the feast of S. Gregory, Pope, the 14th of the previous March.‡

Page 33.—In a schedule of benefices, with the sums charged on each, and a file of arrears of the subsidy granted 2 Henry V., appears the pension of the Nuns of Barwe in the Church of Twyverton, amounting to xxvj^{s} viij^{d}, charged with the sum of ij^{s} viij^{d}.§

Page 36.—Add to note ‡, Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{101}$., and to note **, Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{99}$.

Page 30, &c.—The following notices of exemptions of the Nuns of Barrow from the payment of the disme should be added to those already given :—

By certificates, &c., dated the 17th of May, 1403 (Reg. Bowet, f. xxxiij.); 12th October, 1403 (Reg. Bowet, f. xxvj b.); 6th March, 1412-3 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{27}$.) ; 10th December, 1414 (Reg. Bubw. f. lxxxxj b.); 7th November, 1415 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{30}$ b.) ; 29th June, 1416 (Reg. Bubw. cxv b.); 2nd January, 1417-8 (Reg. Bubw. f. cxxvij.) ; 10th January, 1418-9 (Reg. Bubw. f. cxxxviij b.) ; 1st

* Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{7}$.

† Plac. de Jur. et Assis. 4 Hen. IV., $\left.\begin{matrix}\text{N}\\ 2\\ 36\end{matrix}\right\}$ 2. m. 60.

‡ Ib. m. 66. § Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{30}$d.

March, 1418-9 (Reg. Bubw. f. cxliiij. Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{40}$.); 26th December, 1419 (Reg. Bubw. f. clxix. Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{42}$.); 2nd January, 1422-3 (Reg. Bubw. f. clxxxxix.); 6th February, 1436-7 (Reg. Staff. f. cxxj b. Cler. Subs $\frac{4}{67}$.); 5th May, 1438 (Reg. Staff. f. cxlvij b.); 23rd March, 1445-6 (Reg. Bek. f. xxvj. Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{83}$.); 14th May, 1447 (Reg. Bek. f. lxj b.); 5th December, 1449 (Reg. Bek. f. cij b.); 23rd August, 1450 (Reg. Bek. f. cxiiij b.); 11th October, 1468 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{110}$.); 5th April, 1471 (Reg. Still. f. lxxxxj b.); 20th August, 1474 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{113}$.); 10th November, 1478 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{114}$.); 23rd May, 1481 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{115}$.); 16th May, 1484 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{116}$.); 2nd January, 1491-2 (Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{118}$ b.); 24th January, 1491-2 (Reg. Morton, ff. 68 b.—70 b.); 24th March, 1491-2 (Reg. Morton, f. 74.); 8th May, 1512 (Reg. Hadr. f. c.).

Page 36.—Add to note †, Plac. de Jur. et Assis. 10 Edw. II., $\left.\begin{matrix} \text{N} \\ 2 \\ 16 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 5. m. 23.

Page 37.—Add to note *, Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{107}$.

In the account of the Prior and Convent of Taunton, Collectors of a tenth granted 27 Henry VI., dated the 1st of July, 1449, they pray for an allowance of xvj^{d}, for the pension of the Nuns of Barow, in the Church of Barowe [Twyverton (?)].*

In a similar account of the Prior and Convent of Bath, Collectors of the subsidy in 1453 and 1454, the same

* Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{92}$.

allowance is prayed for, for the sum of ij^{s} viij^{d}, charged on a pension of the Nuns from the same Church.*

Page 38.—Add to note ‖, Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{111}$.

In a Roll of petitions for allowances in behalf of various Houses from the payment of the disme in 1484, the sum of xvj^{d} is placed against the Prioress and Nuns of Barewe; and the Bishop supported the petition by his certificate to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer "quod Priorissa de Barewe pauper est."†

Page 40.—Add to note †, Appendix, No. XV.*

Page 61, and 62.— Invert note * in each page.

Page 75.—Add to note †, Leland, Itin. vol. VII., p. 98.

* Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{100}$.

† Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{117}$.

White Hall, in Ilchester.

A STRANGER as he stands upon Ilchester Bridge can with difficulty believe that he has before him what was, until lately, the county town of Somersetshire. A street of no great length lies immediately in front, containing what are clearly four-fifths of the houses of the place. He is told that a building in the middle distance is the town hall, but of important or sacred edifices there are none that he can discern. On the right bank behind him is the site of the late county prison, now transformed into gardens. Immediately below is the river Ivel, whose waters during the summer hardly cover their channel, as they flow with a thousand windings through the flat country both above and below the town. The shore of the river on the town side is of little more apparent interest than the other parts of the landscape. That on the left of the bridge, which was built about forty years ago, is the garden belonging to a mansion in the street, raised high above the stream by a stone wall half concealed by weeping willows and other trees, and conspicuous for the care and skill with which it is tended. That on the right is a farm yard, also protected against the stream by a wall rising to the level of the ground, which is about fifteen feet above the bed of the river, full of goodly wheat-mows

and hay-ricks, and backed by modern agricultural buildings of lias and slate. If you cross the bridge, and pass through the wheat-mows in the yard to the fields beyond, you cannot fail to observe, as indeed you may in all parts of the town, that the walls of the enclosure are composed in great measure of the remains of former edifices, worked fragments of Ham Hill stone, used promiscuously with other materials. But, with this exception, neither the farm yard nor its boundary wall contains aught of archæological interest discernible even by the most practised eye.

And yet there is a melancholy interest which haunts the spot, destitute of ability though it appears of inspiring such a feeling. In old time the Ivel, as it swept from Ilchester Bridge, flowed on beneath the walls of a picturesque group of edifices, of which not a stone now remains in its former position. All is gone, save the fragments already alluded to, if indeed these have not been brought from other buildings in the neighbourhood, as is more than likely to be the case. Visible proof of ancient occupation the place has none. We are entirely dependent on the accounts of preceding travellers, and on tradition which still lingers among the old neighbours, for a knowledge of the fact that this farm yard is the site of White Hall of Ilchester.

Ilchester is full of such memories. It abounded with Churches and Religious Houses, and of the great majority nothing now remains save the mere recollection. The description of Leland, who visited the place in the earlier half of the sixteenth century, is very remarkable for the melancholy tone in which, contrary to his wont, the writer indulges. "The Toune of Ilchester," he says, "hath beene a very large thyng, and one of the auncientest Townes yn al that Quarter. At this tyme it is yn won-

derful decay, as a thing in a maner rasid with men of Warre. Ther hath beene in hominum memoria 4. Paroche Churchis yn the Toune, whereof one yet is occupied. The tokens of other 2. yet stond, and the 4. is clene yn Ruine."* He "enterid by the South West into Ilchester, over a great Stone Bridge of vij. arches, yn the midle wherof were ij. litle Houses of Stone, one of the right Hond, wher the commune Gaiol is for Prisoners yn Somersetshir. The other House on the lift Hond. The lesser of booth semid to me to have bene a Chapelle."† This, as Stukeley thought, who was there in 1723, was Little Saint Mary's Church,‡ many particulars in connection with which will be mentioned in the course of the history. From this point he could see White Hall, and of it he says :—"Ther is a fre Chapelle in the Toune, the bakside wherof cummith to the Ryver side even hard bynethe the Bridge, and ther joynith a right praty Mansion House to this Chapelle. I have hard say That many Yeres syns ther was a Nunry wher this Chapelle ys."§ In Stukeley's time, and long before, both the Chapel on the bridge and this, which he calls White Chapel, had been "converted into dwellings."‖

Of the changeful fortunes of this last,—successively Hospital, Nunnery, and Free Chapel,—the reader shall now be furnished with such an account as from multifarious Records I can collect and glean for him.

Some time between the years 1216 and 1220, William Dacus, or Dennis, gave certain lands, enumerated in a charter which has been fortunately preserved in Bishop Drokenesford's Register,¶ in and near Ilchester, for the

* Itin. vol. ij. p. 61.
† Ib.
‡ Iter vj. vol. j. p. 155.
§ Itin. Ib.
‖ Iter vj. Ib.
¶ Reg. Drok. fol. lviij.

purpose of founding a Hospital to the honour of the Blessed Trinity, for the reception and entertainment of poor travellers and pilgrims, and in behalf of other sacred objects which are minutely enumerated and specified. A house in Ivelcester called White Hall is the first mentioned in this document, and from it, I presume, the Hospital derived its name. There was a family of Albe, or White, resident in Ilchester from a very early period, a member of which, John Albe, gave a shop, situated in Chepstrete, in that town, to Ralph Herward, as a marriage portion with his grand daughter Matilda. The same John appears as a witness to another deed, whereby William Cocul, of Lumynton, gives to the same Ralph, as a marriage portion with the same Matilda, his daughter, a messuage with appurtenances in Lumynton, with various other lands.* Both of these deeds are undated, but are of the time of Henry III. It is not improbable that, previous to its becoming the property of William Dacus, White Hall was the mansion of this family, and that, as I before remarked, the House thus acquired its characteristic name.

The founder was a man of considerable importance. It was to him, I conjecture, that a writ was addressed, dated at Waltham, the 18th of October, 1204, commanding him to deliver to William de Montacute, the castle of Sireburn.† To him, without doubt, the charter was granted, dated at Suwic, on the 12th of May, in the 5th year of the reign of K. John, 1204, by which that monarch gave to William Dacus six pounds and ten shillings of rent which he was accustomed to pay of the farm

* Ilchester Almshouse Deeds, communicated by the Rev. William Buckler, Nos. 60, 61.

† Pat. 6 John, m. 7. Add. MS. B.M. 9783, p. 78.

of Heywarder and Heching, and of other tenements with their appurtenances, which he held of the King in the burg of Ivelcestre, with the various rights of soc and sac, &c., belonging to them.* Nor can it be held improbable that the precinct which bears to our own time its old Saxon appellation of Soke Dennis obtained its distinguishing affix from this worshipful family.

The lands with which the Hospital was endowed by its good founder, and the pious objects which he had in view may best be learned by the terms of his charter. It occurs, as I have already observed, in the Register of Bishop Drokenesford, into which it was copied for security and preservation. I give it here in exact translation, and the original will be found in the Appendix.

"To all the faithful of Christ to whom the present writing shall come, William Dacus wisheth eternal salvation in the true Saviour. Know all of you that I, by motive of divine piety, have given and freely granted, and by this my charter have confirmed to our Lord God, in pure and perpetual alms, the house of Ivelcestre which is called White Hall, with all the messuage to the same house pertaining, and two houses hard by the same house which were in the tenure of Roger de Donehefd, and both the mills which I formerly possessed in the vill of Ivelcestre, with all the arable land which pertaineth to the aforesaid mills, and with one sester of meadow land† pertaining to the said

* Cart. 5 John, m. 3.

†"Cum uno sextario prati." In the copy of this charter, given before the Appendix to the Annals of John de Trokelowe, "sextario" is transformed into "sexclirio," of which new and obscure word both Hearne and Du Cange have propounded some learned elucidations! Had the original been consulted, their expenditure of time and sagacity would have been prevented. The MS. is perfectly clear, and the difficulty is one which owed its origin to the blunder of the transcriber only.

mills ; so that, however, my own corn and that of my household in the same mills be quit of all grinding dues. I have also given to God the house which was Aylward Lagga's, with all the messuage to the said house pertaining, and ten acres of land lying next to the said messuage, and eighteen acres of land which are called Heychyng, and five acres of land which are called Panchot croft, which lie in the north part of Pulbring, and two shillings of the service of the tenement of Henry the Carter, to wit, of one virgate of land at Sowey twelve pence, and of one messuage in the vill of Ivelcestre twelve pence, and seven acres of land which were of Haywarder, to wit, one acre which is called Battedeacre, and one acre which lyeth near to the house of the lepers, and two acres and a half in the west part from the house of the lepers, and two acres and a half which lie near to the land of W. Ruffegray towards Pulbringg; to found a Hospital to the honor of God and the Blessed Trinity, to the support of poor, weak, and sick pilgrims, for the health of the soul of Richard, Bishop of Winchester, born at Sok, and for the health of the soul of his father and mother, and of his ancestors, and of all to him by consanguinity pertaining ; and for the health of the soul of Herbert, Bishop of Salisbury, and of his father and mother, and of his ancestors, and of all to him by consanguinity pertaining; and for the health of the soul of Jocelin, Bishop of Bath, and of his father and mother, and of his ancestors, and of all to him by consanguinity pertaining ; and for the health of the soul of Adam de Ivelcestre, Dean of Salisbury, and of his father and mother, and of his ancestors, and of all to him by consanguinity pertaining; and for the health of my soul, and of my father and mother, and of my ancestors, and of all to me by consanguinity pertaining ; and for the

health of the soul of Emma my wife, and of her father and mother, and of her ancestors, and of all to her by consanguinity pertaining; and for the health of all those who shall mercifully contribute their alms to the improvement and support of the aforesaid Hospital. This also I add, that I and my heirs shall present the wardens of the said Hospital to the Lord Bishop of Bath, in whose protection the Hospital is. And if it shall so happen that the warden of the said Hospital to the said Hospital shall not be necessary, I and my heirs only, and no other, shall remove the same, and another whom we shall see to be suitable, by the counsel of prudent men, shall there place in his stead. I and my heirs in the name of God will warrant all the lands aforenamed to God and the Hospital aforesaid against all men. And that this my donation may remain sure, and for the time to come may continue stedfast, I have strengthened the present charter by the apposition of my seal. These be witnesses :— Lord Stephen, Archbishop of Canterbury; Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln; Jocelin, Bishop of Bath; Richard, Bishop of Salisbury; Adam de Ivelcestre, dean of Salisbury; Geoffrey, Archdeacon of Berkshire; John, Chaplain of Lord Richard, Bishop of Salisbury; Master Luke, Canon of Salisbury; Hugh Malet, Gilbert Dacus, Richard Dacus, Richard Pauncefot, and Richard his son, Richard de Clyvedon, Bartholomew de Kemessing, and many others."*

It is, of course, a matter of the first importance to fix the date of this foundation charter. It is assigned by Archer, Hearne, and Collinson, to about the year 1226. Each of these writers, however, is in error, as may without

* Reg. Drok. fol. lviij. Appendix, No. I. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6964, pp. 21, 22.

difficulty be proved by an examination of the attesting witnesses. The Stephen, Hugh, Jocelin, and Richard of the charter were, respectively, Stephen Lancton, Archbishop of Canterbury, from 1207 to 1229; Hugh Wallis, Bishop of Lincoln, 1209-1235; Jocelin de Welles, Bishop of Bath, 1206-1244; and Richard Poore, Bishop of Salisbury, first consecrated to Chichester on the 25th of January, 1215-16, and translated to Salisbury in May or June, 1217. Two other important names then occur—Adam de Ivelcestre, Dean of Salisbury; and Geoffrey, Archdeacon of Berkshire. The latter is principally remembered from his place in this very document,* but the presence of the former, in connection with the last-named Bishop, happily reduces us to a much narrower interval than that to which we were previously restricted. Adam de Ivelcestre was elected to the Deanery of Salisbury on the consecration of his predecessor, Richard Poore, to the Bishopric of Chichester, which, as I have already stated, was on the 25th of January, 1215-16, and died on the 23rd of August, 1220. Accordingly to some day between May or June, 1217, the date of Richard's translation, and the 23rd of August, 1220, that of Adam de Ivelcestre's death, the charter of foundation must be referred. I fear that, in the absence of a direct statement in the document itself, this interval of three years is the closest approximation to the exact date which can now be arrived at.

Before we proceed a few words must be added about the founder and his family. I am indebted to the kindness of the Rev. William Buckler, the Rector of Ilchester, for the loan of several ancient deeds belonging to the Almshouse of that town, which throw considerable light on the

* Le Neve's Fasti, by Hardy, ij. 632.

history of White Hall. The earliest is one which, though undated, is to be referred to the reign of King John, the period of the foundation of the House. Several of the names are identical with those which appear in the charter which we have just examined. By it William Dacus grants to Herward, for his homage and service, a messuage formerly in the tenure of Pagan Hoper, together with other property, in consideration of an annual rent, of eleven shillings, payable quarterly, receiving as an acknowledgment half a marc of silver. The witnesses are Gilbert Dacus, Thomas de Cirencester, Robert Triz, Geoffrey of the Hospital, either, I presume, the warden or a brother of the House, William Raffe, William de Gedding, Henry Carter, Richard, clerk, and many others.*

I find also the first of these witnesses, Gilbert Dacus, attesting an agreement between the Dean and Chapter of Wells and John de Alre and Agnes his wife, concerning land on Saltmore. It is dated on the Festival of S. Mark, the Evangelist, 25th April, 1233, in the chapel of S. Gregory, of Stok, at Northcuri.†

For upwards of twenty years after the foundation of the Hospital little or nothing seems to have been done to augment its revenues. Powerful friends, however, were soon to co-operate in aid of the institution. William, Abbot of Cernel, or Cerne, to the members of which affluent and magnificent Abbey belonged the advowson of the Church of S. Mary the Less in Ilchester, and an annual payment from the same, gave to the Hospital that Church and the revenue derived from it, with the concurrence if not at the instance of Jocelin, the good Bishop of Bath, with the

* Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 34.

† Reg. Well. I. fol. 12 b.

special intent that among other advantages its inmates might have close at hand a chapel for the performance of Divine Service, instead of being compelled, as previously, to traverse the crowded streets in their way to the parish church. The rights of those parties, however, who had an interest in the arrangement which was thus altered, were carefully examined and respected. All this will be found clearly and minutely detailed in the letters of the Abbot and Convent of Cernel, and of Bishop Jocelin, in connexion with this transfer. They follow in Bishop Drokenesford's Register the foundation charter already given, and I have treated them in a similar manner. I may premise that Bishop Jocelin was the same as the prelate whom we have just seen attesting the charter of foundation, and that the Abbot of Cernel, or Cerne, was William de Hungerford, who received the royal assent to his election on the 30th of March, 1232.*

"A letter of the Abbot of Cernel, touching the ratification of the said appropriation :—

"To all the faithful of Christ, to whom the present writing shall come, William, by Divine permission Abbot of Cernel, and the convent of the same place, health in the Lord. We directed our letters patent to the venerable Father Jocelin, by the grace of God Bishop of Bath, after these words :—To the Reverend Lord and Dearest Father in Christ, Jocelin, by the grace of God Bishop of Bath, W. by Divine permission Abbot of Cernel, and the convent of the same place, health and devoted reverence in the Lord. Know ye, that we will for ever ratify and approve the ordination which you have made touching the advowson of the Church of Blessed

* Pat. 16 Hen. iij. m. 7.

Mary the Less of Ivelcestre, and touching the annual benefice which we have been accustomed to receive from the said Church. In witness whereof we have caused our seals to be affixed to the present writing. May your Fatherships ever fare well in the Lord—'valeat paternitas vestra semper in Domino.' The said Lord Bishop, on the receipt of these our letters aforesaid, by the counsel of men prudent and learned in the law, his assessors, ordained after this manner: namely, that we should continue to receive that annual pension which we have been accustomed to receive from the same church, to wit two shillings, during the whole lifetime of Thomas now parson of that church, and that the advowson of that church should remain for ever to the said bishop and his successors. He ordained also, that after the decease or cession of the said Thomas we should receive one marc yearly within the octave of the Assumption of Blessed Mary, in the house of Cernel, out of the revenues of the said church, by the name of perpetual benefice, by the hand of the rectors of that church for the time being, and should receive that marc quit of all ordinary burden. To the making of this ordination the anxiety and care which he felt for the Hospital of S. John Baptist of Ivelcestre, which Hospital is situated in the parish of the aforesaid church, induced the aforesaid Bishop, as he declared, that he might more easily and competently be able to provide for the celebration for the future of Divine Service in the chapel of the aforesaid Hospital. We therefore entirely ratify and approve the aforesaid ordination of the said Lord Bishop for us and our successors. In strength and testimony whereof we have to the present writing affixed our seals."*

* Reg. Drok. fol. lviij. Appendix, No. II.

To the letter quoted by the Abbot at the commencement of this epistle, Bishop Jocelin replied as follows :—

"A letter of lord Jocelin, Bishop, touching his ordination of the said appropriation.

"To all to whom the present writing shall come, Jocelin, by the grace of God Bishop of Bath, health. We have received the letters patent of the Abbot and Convent of Cernell in these words :—To the Reverend Lord, &c." as above—"We, on receipt of the said letters, (inasmuch as a certain place is, with consent of the lord of the land, assigned by pontifical authority to the use of hospitality and the maintenance of poor persons, within the parish of the said church, in honour of the Holy Trinity, the care and thought whereof lieth upon us by our pastoral office,) considering the poverty and small estate of the said Hospital, and the loss which the brethren and sisters of the same sustain, who, leaving the world, for the service of God and the poor, under the habit of poverty have taken there the habit of monachism and religion ; and that, for the celebrating and hearing of Divine Service, they have necessarily had to hurry to the parish church among secular persons through the streets, to the disgrace of religion, inasmuch as in the said Hospital Divine Service might not be celebrated save by preserving intact the rights of the said mother church, by the counsel of men prudent and learned in the law, concerning the said advowson and church thus ordain :—namely, that the aforesaid Hospital and the brethren of the same have the advowson of the aforesaid church for ever. We grant also to the same that, on the ceasing or deceasing of Thomas, now rector of the same, they have the free ability by this our grant to convert the said church to their own uses, and to keep, and enter into possession of the same,

without in any way requiring the assent of us or our successors, so that they cause Divine Service to be for ever in the same by a fit chaplain competently performed. And that they henceforward pay yearly in the octaves of the Assumption of Blessed Mary Virgin at Cernell to the Abbot and monks of the same place one marc out of the revenues of the same church, by the name of perpetual benefice, quit of all ordinary burden. As long, however, as the aforesaid Thomas, the present rector of the same, possesseth the said church, the said Abbot and convent of Cernell are to receive the annual pension of two shillings, which from it they have been previously accustomed to receive, so that the said brethren may have in the said Hospital a chapel of their own, in which they may cause Divine Service to be celebrated with striking of bells and other solemnities customary and necessary in the celebration of Divine Service. And that they may have a consecrated cemetery within the bounds of their Hospital, to bury their brethren and sisters and other persons who there shall think fit to choose to be buried; with reservation always of the right of the parish churches of those who there shall choose to be buried. This ordination we make, reserving to us and to our successors the entire jurisdiction, power, and dignity of our churches and ourselves; and reserving to the archdeacons of the place their archidiaconal right, in recompense of which loss we will and appoint that to the same archdeacons the customary synodals every year be doubled. In testimony whereof we have to the present writing caused our seal to be affixed. Dated at Woky, on the day of the Conversion of S. Paul, in the year of grace one thousand, two hundred, and forty-first.*

The pious founder of the House did not live to see this welcome addition to his liberality. I presume that he died

* Reg. Drok. ff. lviij, lviijb. Appendix, No. III.

in the earlier half of the year 1223,—another proof, if such were needed, that the date of the foundation, as given by previous writers, is incorrect,—for I have found a Final Concord made three weeks after Easter, in the 7th year of Henry III., 1223, between his widow Emma, the lady mentioned in the charter of foundation, and Walter de Clopton, the warden, and most probably the first of those officers, whereby the former resigned her claim to a third part of ten acres of arable land, fifteen acres of meadow, and two mills, in Ivecestre, her legal dower, in consideration of an annual payment by the warden and his successors of one marc of silver to the said Emma during her life, half at Easter and half at Michaelmas, with power to her, on non-payment, to distrain for the full amount.*

King Henry III. commenced his 26th regnal year by granting letters of protection to the Master and Brethren of the Hospital of the Holy Trinity of Ivelcestre and their dependents, the said letters to last to the coming of age of the heir of John le Daneys. The announcement stands first upon the Patent Roll, and is dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 28th of October, 1241.† This John was the son of the founder, who followed his father in that year. He left behind him a daughter named Ela, who during her minority was entrusted to the care of Nicholas de Bolevill, by patent dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 30th of January, 1241-2.‡

The family of the founder was in possession of a small payment from White Hall at the time of the compilation of the Testa de Nevill, in or about the year 1270. The jurors reported that William Dacus had 2¼d from the property, but that he did no service for it.§

* Ped. Fin. Somerset. 2—20 Hen. III. n. 57. Appendix, No. III.*
† Pat. 26 Hen. III. m. 13. ‡ Pat. 26 Hen. III. m. 10.
§ Test. de Nevill, p. 161.

With this at the latest ends, though it may hardly be said to have more than begun, the history of the place as a Hospital. When or how the alteration was brought about we know not, but within ten years from the date last mentioned, even if it had not taken effect before, a change was made in its form of government, and it became a House of Augustinian Nuns under the rule of a Prioress. Probably it was induced by the feeling that the peculiar duties of such an institution were more likely to be satisfactorily performed by the agency of women than by that of the earlier rulers of the House. Be this, however, as it may, the first intimation which we possess of the change is presented by a document which is sufficiently curious and interesting to deserve a minute notice.

An inquest was held some time in the 9th year of King Edward I., or between the 20th of November, 1280, and the same day, 1281, and a verdict was returned on oath by Adam de Kary, William Tessun, William Cot, Thomas de Parays, John de Loveny, Gilbert de Taunton, Peter Le Rus, Nicholas de Tyntenhull, William Sclaume, William Ffoffard, Geoffrey de Tyntenhull, and Reginald de Kary, that one messuage in the vill of Ivelcestre was held of the Earl of Cornwall, by a service of one farthing a year for every service, and that the said Earl was chief lord of that messuage, and that another messuage was held of the same Earl, by a service of one halfpenny a year for every service; paying thence to Roger de Moles twelve pence a year only, without the receipt of any other service thencefrom. They presented that it would not be to the damage of the said Earl, if Cecilia Bagge and Robert her son should grant or enfeof the Prioress and Nuns of La Blaunchesale of Ivelcestre, because the said Earl ought to receive the customs and services due from

the messuages aforesaid every year by the hands of the tenants of the said messuages. They further presented that four acres of land were held of John Shurek of Cilterne, by a service of one penny a year for all services, of the fee of John de Montacute, which was held of the King in chief by barony. Further, that one acre of land and a half were held of Hugh Hereward by a service of one penny a year; and one acre and a half were held of Adam Haghene by a service of one rose a year; and one acre of land was held of Thomas Bagge by a service of one halfpenny a year, and were of the fee of the Earl Marescall by iiij^{d} of Sturgoyl; and two acres of meadow and a half were held of the heirs of William Le Deneys, who held them in chief of the King by a service of twelve pence a year. Further, that it would not be to the damage of the King if the aforesaid Prioress and Nuns were enfeoffed of the aforesaid tenements; and also that it would be similarly without loss to the lords of the fee if they were thence enfeoffed, inasmuch as nothing in the aforesaid tenements could accrue to them, unless only by escheat, if such should hap, or relief; and if an escheat should hap, that then it would be to the damage of the lords of the fee to the amount of vj^{d} a year from each acre of arable land, and from the two acres and a half of meadow vj^{d} only a year.*

It will be perceived at first sight that there is considerable obscurity in this document. It is the result of an inquest taken, I presume, at Ilchester, and an ancient but not contemporary endorsement attributes it to the year above given. It bears no date, however, nor mentions the fact of its having been taken before the King's

* Esc. 9 Edw. I. n. 79. Appendix, No. IV.

Escheator, though such, I apprehend, was the case. Nor can we be in any degree certain how much, or if any more, land beyond the two messuages held by Cecilia Bagge and Robert her son of the Earl of Cornwall was proposed to be given to the Prioress and Sisters, although it looks from the language employed as if the ten acres subsequently mentioned as held of John Shurek, Hugh Hereward, Adam Haghene, Thomas Bagge, and William Le Daneys, were intended to accompany the gift. I even think I can trace some of these small tenements in the enumeration, just two centuries afterwards, of the various possessions of White Hall, when it had long undergone a third transformation.

By a deed which, although undated, is proved by internal evidence to be of the time of Edward I., formerly in the Dering Collection but now in my possession, Henry de Rocheford, or Rogeford, son of Eudo de Estwode, gave to Henry de Broke, Nichola, his wife, and their heirs, three acres of arable land called Litlemede, lying between the land of Henry de Broke, called Brudenewere, on the south, and the road, called the Morstrete, on the north; and seven acres of meadow, lying between the parcel of arable land, which is called the Castel, on the north of the said meadow, and the meadow of the Prioress of White Hall of Yevelcestre, on the south, which arable land and meadow were formerly held to farm of the said Henry Rocheford by William Ruffegre, with the reservation of a rent-charge of sixteen pence a year, payable to the commonalty of the town of Yvelcestre, at Hockeday, for all services, suits, complaints, secular demands, and all other outgoings at any time pertaining to the land aforesaid. Henry de Broke and Nichola his wife gave to Henry de Rocheford for this donation, concession, confirmation, and warranty, twenty-

four marcs and a half of silver. Witnesses: Sirs William de Givelton and Andrew de Putford, Knts., Thomas de Hengleby, John Herod, John Pol, Henry de Spekinton, John de Aula of Montacute, John de Broke, Robert de Bradeford, and others.*

Thomas de Speketone, son and heir of Henry de Speketone, no doubt one of the witnesses of the charter just before us, quit-claimed to Walter Cole, of Ivelcester, a tenement situated towards the North Gate of that town, to the east of the tenement of White Hall, formerly in the tenure of Thomas Axtil, and which was given to William, called the Carter, as a free marriage portion with Matilda, daughter of William de Speketone. For this acquittance Walter paid twenty shillings sterling. Witnesses: Peter de Draycote, William Cook of Lymyngtone, Robert de Scheptone, clerk, Thomas de Engelby, Master Robert de Nortone, John Love, Thomas Tigel. Dated at Ivelcester, on Sunday next after the feast of the Purification of Blessed Mary, in the thirty-second year of Edward I.; which is coincident with the 9th of February, 1303-4.†

The Priory was without a Superior either by death or resignation in the year 1313. This is the first notice that we possess of the internal affairs of the House. On the Ides, the 13th, of December in that year, Bishop John de Drokenesford issued a mandate from London to the Archdeacon of Wells, or his official, to make the customary inquiries into the matter. On the 9th of the same month a commission had been addressed from London to Antony de Bradeneye and Hugh de Pencriche, who have already figured before us in the annals of Canyngton and Mynchin Barrow, empowering them, if the examination of the lady

* Appendix, No. V.
† Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 47.

presented to them for the vacant office were satisfactory, to admit and induct her into corporal possession.*

Like the sister Houses of Canyngton and Mynchin Barrow, White Hall was ordinarily committed to the oversight of some of the neighbouring clergy. At this time the generally unthankful office was entrusted to William de Modiford, rector of Tyntenhull, and William de Insula, rector of S. Mary the Greater in Yvelcester. A commission was addressed to them, conjointly and singly, dated at Kyngesbury, the 10th of July, 1315, respecting the care and administration of the House, which was to be exercised by them during the Bishop's pleasure.†

Five weeks afterwards the Bishop committed the wardship of the Sisters and their possessions to W. [William de Glydeford], Rector of Jerlitan [Yarlton] and Simon de Montacute, Knt. They were to render to the Bishop an account of their administration, when such should be demanded, and their commission was revocable by him, if and whensoever he might think proper to recall it. The missive was dated at Woky, the 17th of August, 1315.‡

Alice de la Zerde, or Yard—a name probably derived from an estate in Ilchester belonging to the family of Boleville,—was at this time Prioress. Her misconduct unhappily compelled the Bishop's interference, and the employment of stringent measures for its correction. She was charged with extreme severity towards her Sisters, even to the extent of ejecting them from the House, and compelling them to beg for their daily bread. The Nuns applied to their Bishop, and implored with many tears his

* Reg. Drok. fol. cxlj.
† Reg. Drok. fol. lxxx.
‡ Reg. Drok. fol. lxxxjb.

aid and protection. He took their view of the matter, and sentenced the offending Superior to deprivation of her office. A commission, for the carrying out of this judgment by one or both, was addressed from Kyngesbury to Thomas de Gorges, precentor, and Hugh de Pencriche, canon of Wells, whom we have already seen employed on similar occasions at other Houses, on the 4th of the Nones, the 2nd, of November, 1315.*

The Prioress appealed to the Primate at Canterbury, and the matter was referred to his court for adjudication. Bishop Drokenesford wrote to the Archbishop, informing him of the unhappy and shameful circumstances of the case, the wrongs which the Nuns had endured, and their earnest solicitation that he would apply a remedy. As he says that he has his hands tied, "manus ligatas obtinentes," while the cause was pending in the Archbishop's court, he entreats the Primate to befriend the Sisters in their misery, and graciously to allow them a necessary maintenance in peace out of their own property in their House aforesaid, until the judgment of his court should be given. The Bishop's letter was dated at Kyngesbury, on the Nones, the 5th, of September, 1316.†

Alice de la Zerde was deprived of her office, and Alice de Chilterne was presented by the patron, Nicholas de Bolevill, and elected Prioress of White Hall.

The late Prioress was not alone to blame. It is certain that several successive wardens had most grievously neglected the duties of their office. John de Draycote and Walter de Wouburn were special and notorious

* Reg. Drok. fol. lxxxxij. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 33.

† Reg. Drok. fol. lxxxxviijb. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 36. Appendix, No. VI.

culprits. The former had been placed in his post of responsibility by Simon de Montacute, to whom, as we have already seen, the wardship of the House had been committed, and the latter had been promoted by the King to the same office at the said John's suggestion, but had been for various reasons removed from it. Under their united mismanagement, and that of certain others, their accomplices and abettors, the property of the Hospital had been so consumed and wasted, that the Nuns were reduced to beggary, and the House itself seemed to have arrived at the close of its existence. So gross and palpable was the wrong done, that complaint was made to the authorities, and the whole matter came under the immediate cognizance of the law. The records furnish us with a minute account of the state to which the House had arrived, and the means by which an attempt was made to redress the evil. A writ in the first place was addressed to William de Bourn, John de Erle, and Nicholas de Wedergrave. The instrument sets forth that because, from the frequent complaints of divers persons, the King is given to understand that the goods of the Hospital of the Holy Trinity of Yvelcestre, assigned by the contribution of the faithful to the support of the poor Sisters of the aforesaid Hospital, had by John de Draycote, (whom Simon de Montacute, to whom the Escheator John Walewayn was asserted to have committed the custody of the said Hospital, under colour of a certain inquest taken by him *ex officio*, by which it was said to be discovered that Alice de Chiltern had been, at the presentation of Nicholas de Bolevill, son and heir of Nicholas de Bolevill some time defunct, who held the same in chief of the late King Edward, the father of the present King, promoted to be Prioress of the Hospital aforesaid, and, forasmuch as the

said Nicholas had not yet proved his majority, nor obtained the usual seisin of his estates from the King's delivery, had deputed) and also by Walter de Wouburn, (to whom the King had lately committed the custody aforesaid at the suggestion of the aforesaid John, and whom afterwards for certain reasons he had removed from the same,) and also by their accomplices and abettors, been wasted and destroyed, in so much that the said Sisters were by the want of care and deliberate malice of the said John and Walter now deprived of necessary maintenance, and were as good as reduced to a state of beggary and public exposure, so that, unless a very speedy obstacle should be put to the malice of the said John and Walter, there was a most probable fear that the said Hospital would be cleared out and irreparably destroyed,—the King, wishing to be more fully certified in respect of the premises, and, as well for the conservation of his right as for the indemnity of the aforesaid Hospital, justice to be done, appointed them or two of them to overlook the state of the aforesaid Hospital, and to enquire, by the oath of honest men of the county of Somerset, what and what manner of goods had been, by the aforesaid John and Walter and their accomplices and abettors, taken away or eloined from the Hospital aforesaid, and when, and by whom, and how, and in what manner, and also concerning the value of the same; and whether the aforesaid Nicholas, the father of the aforesaid Nicholas, held them on the day of his death of the King's father aforesaid, or of any heir then under age and in the King's custody, and how and in what manner; and whether the said Nicholas at the time that he presented the aforesaid Alice to the place of Prioress of the Hospital, as was aforesaid, was seised of the lands and tenements which had belonged to his aforesaid father, or not; and if so, then

by whom and how, and in what manner; and moreover what state the ancestors of the aforesaid Nicholas had in the Hospital aforesaid, on the occasions of vacancies of the same; and concerning all other matters affecting the premises, and to the restoration to the said Hospital of all the goods which they should find to have been taken and eloined from the same, and the delivery of them to the said Prioress and Sisters of the said Hospital for the support of the same; and also to compel and distrain the aforesaid John, Walter, and others, in whose possession such goods should happen to be found, according to the requirement of the law. They were further commanded to make, with certain whom they, or at least two of them, should appoint to this work, a personal visit to the Hospital, to inspect its state, to hold a diligent inquest in respect of the premised articles, to complete all and singular of the premises in the form aforesaid, and to inform the King of their proceeding, distinctly and openly, sending the inquest taken by them in respect of the premises, under their seals and the seals of them by whom it should be made, without delay, and the writ with the same. The sheriff was also commanded to aid and assist them in all and singular the aforesaid particulars. The writ was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 28th of June, 1316.*

I am sorry to be obliged in truth and candour to state that the Prioress, Alice de Chilterne, herself cannot be exonerated from great and criminal blame. That she had numerous enemies is certain, but her own behaviour would seem, unless we attribute the charge which now appears against her to the falsehood and malice of her detractors, to have been open to grave objection. A commission was

* Pat. 9 Edw. II. p. 2. m. 7, dors.

issued by the Bishop to Sir Henry de Birlaunde, (the 'Sir' was the honorary prefix to the name of a clergyman in olden times) Rector of Stok, and John de Herminull, to take into their charge the House and its revenues. The missive sets forth that it had come to the Bishop's ears, both by the sorrowful complaint of the Nuns and by the voice of public report, that Alice de Chilterne, the Prioress, stood publicly charged with the crime of incontinence with John de Passelewe, chaplain, and also with such daily waste and alienation of the goods of the House that her Sisters for lack of maintenance were compelled miserably to beg. That the Bishop had officially caused a diligent enquiry to be made into these matters, which had resulted in the discovery that the Prioress, without care of her duty and solemn vows, was guilty of great disregard of her Sisters, had kept and was keeping them so short of food that some of them were reported to have died of starvation, had converted the goods of the House to unlawful uses, and had squandered and consumed the same, to the grave peril of her own soul, the prejudice of her Sisters and House, and the loss and scandal of religion in general. That in kindly sympathy for the want and poverty of the said Sisters, for the spiritual benefit of the Prioress herself, and for the relief of the House and its inmates, the Bishop had without delay put the law in operation against the criminal, and that at length, as though conscious of her guilt, she had entirely and absolutely submitted herself, and her state, and that of her House to his ordination, arbitrament, and decree, in the presence of a public notary. That on account of various business in the King's service, beyond the limits of his diocese, he could not leave London, and was unable to carry out the proper and official arrangement of the affairs of the House until his return.

That, accordingly, confiding in their fidelity and industry, he had committed to them the custody of the said Prioress and her Sisters with their House and its appurtenances, of the custody and administration whereof they were to render him an account. He further urges them to do their utmost to provide the necessary maintenance for the Prioress and Sisters, as far as the ability of the House will permit, and to the best of their power to gather together what had been scattered by the misconduct of the Prioress, until he should return to his diocese and ordain otherwise according to law; granting them in conclusion full power to restrain all opposition by ecclesiastical censures. The commission was dated at Dogmeresfeld, the 18th of September, 1323, and the fifteenth year of his consecration.*

Business, as it would appear, still detaining him in London, the Bishop issued four months afterwards a commission of discipline addressed to his Official, with whom were united Master Peter de Horselegh, rector of Staweye, and Master William de Modeford, rector of Tyntenhull. He says that, inasmuch as it had been lately brought to his knowledge that the Prioress was publicly accused of the crime of incontinence, by reason whereof dissentions and murmurs had arisen between her and her Sisters, and numerous scandals had been created, he had committed to them, or any two of them, without waiting for the presence of the third, the full canonical power in his stead of exercising the office of visitation in the aforesaid House, of making enquiry touching the charges aforesaid and other things which needed correction and reformation, and of correcting and punishing the excesses of delinquents and of those who there aided and abetted such, of deposing and

* Reg. Drok. fol. ccxv. Appendix, No. VII.

depriving the same, and of informing themselves of all things pertaining to their investigation and its duties. The missive was dated at Wauton, the 29th of January, 1323-4, and the fifteenth year of his consecration.*

We have already seen that the Church of S. Mary the Less, at Ilchester, was appropriated to the House. A commission was addressed by the Bishop, dated at Stokwell, by London, on the 28th of March, 1324, to John, Bishop of Landaff, empowering him to reconcile the said Church, which had been polluted by effusion of blood, and the cemetery of the same.† The circumstances are not recorded, and conjecture would be vain.

The House had indeed to struggle against enemies numerous and almost insuperable. In the midst of the unhappy transactions which have just been before us, an atrocious outrage was inflicted upon it, which also became the subject of legal interference. It was clearly owing to certain members of the same unscrupulous party which had previously drawn upon itself the vengeance of the law. A writ was addressed to John de Stonore, Ralph de Bereford, and Elias de Godelegh, and states that the King has been informed by the grave complaint of the Prioress of White Hall, of Yevelcestre, that Nicholas de Boleville, John de Harminulle, John son of Peter de Draycote, John le Do, Nicholas de Sok, William Baller, and Nicholas le Deyer, and Agnes his wife, together with certain other malefactors and disturbers of the King's peace, had entered *vi et armis* the close of the said Prioress, being under the King's protection, at Yevelcestre, and had broken open the doors of her granges there, and had threshed, taken,

* Reg. Drok. fol. ccxv. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 84.
† Reg. Drok. fol. ccxviijb.

and carried away the corn then found in the same to the value of a hundred marcs, by which the lands of the aforesaid Prioress there remained uncultivated and unsown, and also with certain cattle had eaten, trodden down, and consumed the grass lately growing in the meadow of the said Prioress there to the value of ten pounds, and had inflicted other lawless injuries against her, in the King's contempt, and to the grave damage of the Prioress, contrary to the King's protection aforesaid and against his peace. Further, that because he was unwilling to leave that transgression, if it had been so perpetrated, unpunished, he had assigned them, or two of them, his Justices, to inquire, by the oath of honest and liege men of the county of Somerset, concerning the aforesaid evildoers, who together with Nicholas, John, and the rest had committed that offence, and to learn the truth in respect of the same, and to determine according to law, &c.* The writ ended with the customary form as to the appointment of certain days and places for the investigation, the reservation of the King's rights, and the order to the sheriff of the county for his assistance in the execution of justice. It was dated, witness the King, at Tonebrigge, the 26th of June, 1324.*

The ecclesiastical commission of the previous year had by this time produced its effect. Prioress Alice de Chilterne was deprived of her office. In a missive to Sir Nicholas de Bolevill, Knt., patron of the Priory, dated at Wyvelescombe, the 3rd of April, 1325, the Bishop gives a brief summary of the case, and requests him to present a fit and proper person to the vacant post.†

* Pat. 17 Edw. II. p. 2. m. 6. dors. Appendix, No. VIII.
† Reg. Drok. fol. ccxxxviijb.

Cecilia de Draycot was the lady who succeeded, but, as it would appear, was hardly more qualified for her place than her unworthy predecessor, though her fault was of a different character. The first intimation which we have of this is presented by a commission from the Bishop, Ralph of Shrewsbury, who succeeded Bishop John de Drokenesford on the episcopal throne of Wells, on the 2nd of September, 1329, dated at Clavertone, on the 1st of September, 1334, addressed to the Rectors of Lymyngton, and S. John's, Ivelcestre, and informing them that for certain reasons he had seen fit to sequestrate the possessions of the House, of which he commanded them to take the charge. They were to supply the Sisters and servants with necessary maintenance only, until they should receive other instructions.*

The Prioress was not only incapable, but also had to govern a very unruly community, and was unable to stem the torrent which opposed her. It was a breach rather of conventual rule than of morality, which nevertheless in the opinion of a strict disciplinarian called for summary punishment. As in the instances before given, the vigilant eyes of her ecclesiastical superiors were soon directed to the fact, and exposure and punishment followed in quick succession. A commission was addressed to Master Richard, rector of Lymington, and Master Thomas, rector of Cherletonemakerel, the terms of which set forth that, although the Bishop had in his confirmation of her in her office committed the administration of the goods of the House to his beloved daughter, Cecilia de Draycot, the Prioress, yet having the greatest confidence in the fidelity and industry of Agnes Chaumpflour and Agnes de Wyn-

* Reg. Rad. fol. lxxxxvjb. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 82.

terbourn, Sisters professed in the same House, he desired that the Prioress should exercise the administration aforesaid by the inspection and counsel of the said Sisters, whom, for certain causes moving him thereto, he had specially deputed so to act. He, therefore, commands them, and each of them, to intimate this arrangement to the Prioress, and in his stead and by his authority to strictly enjoin her that in the exercise of her office she should employ the aid of those Sisters, and the Sisters themselves that they should not omit to render the same. He proceeds to state that it has come to his ears by public report that some of the Sisters, not only without the licence, but also in opposition to the inhibitions of the Prioress, whom by their vow they were bound in canonical and lawful things to obey, were accustomed to wander through the streets and lanes of Ivelcestre, and elsewhere, the modesty of their sex altogether banished, and against the honor of their order; and sometimes, which was worse, did without scruple or fear enter the houses of secular and suspected persons, and in a multitude of other ways did not hesitate to disobediently transgress the canonical commands of the said Prioress, to the scandal of holy religion and the manifest peril of their own souls. That, unwilling to leave such things under a cloke without correction, as indeed he was bound not to do, lest their blood should be required at his hands, he firmly enjoins them and each of them to make diligent enquiry, as often as shall be necessary, about the matters aforesaid and others appertaining to the state of the said House, and to enjoin salutary penances, in his stead and by his authority, on those whom they shall discover to be guilty of the aforesaid or other excesses, in proportion to the degree of their crime, according to the discretion

given to them; and to canonically compel by ecclesiastical censures the performance of the penances so adjudged, as they should in law answer for the same, touching which he charges their consciences. To the performance of all and singular of the aforesaid acts he concludes by committing to them, and each of them, full power and authority in his stead. The instrument was dated at Banewell, the 7th of August, 1335, and of his consecration the sixth.*

Several of the Deeds connected with the Almshouse at Ilchester, to which reference has been made, supply us with very valuable and interesting information during this and the following centuries. It must, nevertheless, be recollected that, in a series of documents, preserved for the sole reason that they relate to property afterwards given to another Religious Establishment, we cannot expect to find more than a kind of oblique information about persons and places which did not happen to form the subject matter of the particular document itself. The deeds, however, as we shall see, supply us, *inter alia*, with the names of two Prioresses hitherto unknown, and also identify the site of the House with the spot which tradition has ever assigned to it. Their value, therefore, can hardly be estimated too highly.

Walter de Miltone, son and heir of John de Miltone, granted to John Stagon and Elen, relict of Adam de Waltham, various lands, and among them half an acre above Overmere, adjoining the land of the Prioress of White Hall. Witnesses: John de Barrye, John Atteffourde, John Vag, John Turke, John Pigatz, John Englysshe, John le Ffauconer, and others. Dated at Chilterne Vagge, on Sunday next after the feast of the

* Reg. Rad. fol. cxxvij. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 93.

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 14 Edward III., or the 26th of March, 1340.*

Cecilia, the Prioress, with her Sisters Alice de Chitterne, (I presume the deposed Prioress) Joan de Wynterbourne, and Agnes Chaunflour, and Thomas de Codeworthe, were parties at Somerton, on Monday next after the feast of S. Peter ad Vincula, 16 Edward III., the 5th of August, 1342, in a case against Gilbert Passeware and Simona his wife, who were represented by William atte Brook, their attorney, on the question of a corrody alleged to have been granted to Simona by the Prioress and Convent. A deed was exhibited, containing an agreement under the Conventual Seal to give to Simona le Lyt, for a certain sum of money, a place within the Priory close, thirty feet long and fifteen broad, on which she was to build at her own expence, together with a corrody of one Sister in a seat daily at the table of the Prioress, with attendance, a habit and veil every year, and all other necessaries proper for a Sister, for the term of her life, or an equivalent of five pence a week in lieu thereof.† The judgment is not known, as the case was carried over to another term, the recorded proceedings of which do not contain it. It was probably settled in the interim.

Alice, widow of Hugh Dodul, granted to Stephen, her son, her tenement in Chepstret, opposite the Church of S. Mary the Less, and adjoining that of the Prioress of White Hall. Witnesses: John atte Broke, etc. Dated at Ivelcestre, on Monday, the feast of the Assumption of the B.V.M., 19 Edward III., or the 15th of August, 1345.‡

Thomas de Moltone, called Baker, and Agnes his wife, gave to John Josep, of Ivelcestre, and Alice his wife, and

* Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 22. ‡ No. 46.

† Assis. Rott. Div. Com. $\frac{2}{22}\,\frac{N}{3}$. mm. 56, 57.

her heirs, a tenement in Chepstrete, adjoining one pertaining to White Hall. Witnesses: Thomas de Broke, and others. Dated at Ivelcestre, on Sunday next before the feast of the Apostles SS. Simon and Jude, 23 Edward III.; or the 25th of October, 1349.*

John Cole, of Bruggewater, granted to Walter Blaunkpayn and Juliana his wife, a burgage with a small curtilage, situated in the main street of Yevelcestre, opposite the Church of Blessed Mary [the Less], between the burgage which formerly belonged to John Draycote, and the burgage of Mary, Prioress of the Nywehalle. The property was to be held for the life of the survivor, at the annual rent of a rose on the feast of the Nativity of S. John Baptist, together with all due rents and services. Witnesses: Robert Pryvyere, John Rypon, Walter Fletchere, John atte Wille, John Vysshere, William Wynsam, and many others. Dated at Yevelchestre, on Friday, next after the feast of Pentecost, 44 Edward III., which is coincident with the 7th of June, 1370.†

This document is of peculiar interest, as it furnishes us with the name of a hitherto unknown Prioress. It would also seem from the change of appellation that the House had lately been either enlarged or rebuilt. It is not, indeed, improbable that the previous structure was included in the ravages of a fire which a short time before appears to have destroyed a considerable part of Ilchester. I have found on the Patent Roll of the 40th year of Edward III., an order of that monarch, dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 12th of May, 1366, commanding the Sheriffs and Justices to hold their Courts, Assizes, Sessions, etc., in Ivelcestre, only, for the

* Ilchester A.D., No. 6.
† I.A.D., No. 26. Appendix, No. IX.

amelioration thereof, which by divers calamities was much depauperated and depressed.*

All this while, and for many years afterwards, the House bore its full share of the miseries which surrounded it, and was hardly struggling with poverty. The same generous hands, however, which we have noticed in the histories of other Somersetshire Nunneries, were not wanting in beneficence. The help was well-timed, and speaks much for the estimation in which, contrary to other appearances, the community was held.

A writ was addressed to Adam atte More, the King's Escheator in the county of Somerset, dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 5th of November, 47 Edward III., 1373, with the usual questions as to the damage or otherwise of permitting Guy de Brien, Robert Fitz Payn, Richard de Acton, Roger Pede, parson of the church of Astynton, John Bays, and Walter Laurence, to give one messuage, four tofts, thirty acres of land, and seven acres of meadow, with their appurtenances, in Ivelchestre and Sokedenys, and William de Melburn, to give one messuage and five acres of land, with their appurtenances, in Ivelchestre, to the Prioress and Sisters of White Hall, of Ivelchestre, and their successors, for the increase of their maintenance. The writ concludes with the customary enquiries as to the services, value, owners, &c., of the property. The inquest in obedience to this was taken before the aforesaid Adam atte More at Ievelchestre, on Monday next after the feast of S. Matthew the Apostle, 48 Edward III., or the 26th of September, 1374; and the jurors, Richard Britz, John Bosse, Hugh Vocle, John Wirchestre, Richard Hacche, William Sherpe, Richard

* Pat. 40 Edw. III. p. 1. m. 29.

Appelyn, Richard Greyleg, Richard Hastyns, John Lamb, Adam Bat, and Thomas Smyth returned upon oath that it would not be for the damage or prejudice of the King or others if such permission were accorded. In answer to the other questions they presented that the lands proposed to be given by the six first named donors were held of the King in free burgage as of his burg of Ivelchestre, by the service of a yearly payment to the bailiffs of the said burg of four shillings at the feast of S. Michael, as parcel of the fee of the farm of the burg aforesaid, and doing suit at the burg court twice a year for all services, and that they were worth in all issues, exclusive of the rent and suit aforesaid, xx^{s} a year. That the land proposed to be given by the last named donor was similarly held of the King in free burgage, as of his burg aforesaid, by a yearly payment to the bailiffs of three shillings and sixpence at the feast of S. Michael, and doing suit as aforesaid, and that the value beyond such service was vj^{d}. That there was no mesne between the King and the aforesaid donors. They further presented that there remained to the aforesaid Guy one messuage and one carucate of land with appurtenances in Ievelchestre, held of the King in free burgage, and worth in all issues x^{li} a year; to Robert Ffitz Payn the manor of Stokecursy with its appurtenances, held of the King in chief by knight service, and worth in all issues xx^{li} a year; to Richard de Acton the manor of Thornfaucon with its appurtenances, held of the Bishop of Winchester by knight service, and worth in all issues x^{li} a year; to Walter Laurence one messuage and one carucate of land with their appurtenances in Bycchenstoke, held of the Bishop of Bath and Wells by knight service, and worth in all issues xx^{s} a year; and to William de Melbourn one messuage with its appurtenances in

Ievelchester, held of the King in free burgage, and worth in all issues iiij^{s} a year; beyond the gift aforesaid. That no lands or tenements remained to Roger Pede, parson of the Church of Astyngton, and John Bays, beyond such gift. That these lands remaining to the donors aforesaid were sufficient for the customs and services due from them. In witness whereof the said jurors annexed their seals, the day, place, and year aforesaid.* The letters patent recount the particulars of the lands already given, with the names of the several donors, the extent, and the united value of the property, and give the desired permission on the payment by the Prioress of six marcs. They add to the object previously stated that of finding daily a wax taper at high mass before the high altar in the Priory Church, and are dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 4th of March, 1374-5.†

Matilda, who has not hitherto occupied a place in the modern lists of the Superiors, was Prioress in 1377. In the account of Stephen de Pemple, Dean of Wells, of the names and contributions of the beneficed and unbeneficed clergy of the Diocese, the former taxed for a subsidy at xij^{d}, and the latter at iiij^{d}, in that year, I find the name of Dame Matilda, Prioress of White Hall, with her one Sister, "cum una sorore sua," taxed together at ij^{s}.‡ I believe that at this period, as in the year 1423, and probably at other times, the little Community consisted of two members only.

A proof of the poverty of the House is furnished after this period by the constant exemption of the Nuns, in conjunction with their Sisters of Canyngton and Barrow, from the payment of the King's disme. Certificates of

* Esc. 48 Edw. III. (2 nrs.) n. 30. MS. Harl. 4120, pp. 199, 200.

† Pat. 48 Edw. III. p. 1. m. 26. ‡ Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{1}$ m. 6.

the exemption are dated the 17th of May, 4th Henry IV., 1403;* and again the 2nd of February, 1403-4;† and the 12th of October, 1404.‡

Another hitherto unnoticed Prioress is now to be introduced to the reader. Among the contributors to a subsidy of vj^{s} viij^{d}, from every Chaplain and Religious, granted by Convocation to King Henry IV., in 1406, occurs Cristina, Prioress of the Poor Sisters, Rector of S. Mary the Less, in Ievelcestre. The Bishop's letter to John, Abbat of Clive, authorising the collection, is dated the 22nd of June, 1406.§

The head of the family of Bonville was the ordinary patron of the House; and an instance now occurs, where one who filled that position did not forget the moral obligation which was annexed to it. Sir William Bonville left behind him a will, made on Saturday before the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, the 13th of August, 1407, and proved before Edmund de Stafford, Bishop of Exeter, at Crediton, on the 24th of March, 1408. It is a document characteristic of mediæval times, and gives us a grand idea of an old English worthy whose heart and hand were ever open. He bequeathes, *inter alia*, the following sums to Somersetshire Houses:—To the Friars of Ilchester, 100^{s}. To the Nuns there, 10^{l}. To the Friars of Bridgewater, 100^{s}. To the Abbey of Glastonbury, 40^{l}. He also leaves 40^{l}. for masses to be celebrated for him and all Christian souls, for the space of two years, by four several priests, viz., one at Shete, (Shute, near Axminster, where he usually resided) one at Meriet, one at Woodbury, and one in the Nun's Church at Ilchester; each priest to receive 10^{l}. for

* Reg. Bowet, fol. xxxiij. † Ib. fol. xxiij. ‡ Ib. fol. xxvjb.
§ Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{20}$.

this service. It would strike a modern with surprise to be told that his bounty went far beyond private or personal objects of interest. Thus he leaves 100 marcs in aid of the bridges and roads in Somerset and Devon. To his tenants at Lymyngton, he gives 20 marcs, and 20 quarters of corn from his grange at Socke. To his tenants at Meriet, twelve, and to his poorest tenants at Thurlebere, ten quarters of corn. To the Church of Stoke Denys, his smallest missal. To Alice Hogges, of Thurlebere, 10 marcs. To John Strecch, 20$^{l.}$; and to John Mascal, 50$^{s.}$ A codicil gives to the anchorite at S. Leonard's, near Exeter, 50$^{s.}$; and fifty cows to as many poor men and women.*

John Hubarde, of Yevele, son and heir of Isabella Hubardes, sister of Alice, widow of John Josep, granted to Robert Veel a burgage, with appurtenances, in Chepstrete, between a tenement held by Thomas Ffolqui of the heir of William Bonevyle, and a tenement of the Prioress of White Hall, opposite that of John Courteys. Witnesses: William Whittoke, William Nywetone, John Brys, John Drapere, John Mascalle, and others. Dated at Yevelchester, the 12th of September, 10 Henry IV., 1409.†

Six years after this the Priory received one of its most important acquisitions of property. The nature of the transaction will be best understood by a careful study of the following documents. They constitute a most valuable and instructive series, which cannot but be of great interest to the Somersetshire reader, and present also for the general student a lively example of the system of feudal tenure which was a special characteristic of the age.

* Reg. Staff. Ep. Exon. Coll. Top. et Gen. viij. 244-6.

† Ilchester Almshouse Deed.

A writ was in the first place issued, witness the King, at Westminster, on the 1st of June, in the first year of Henry V., 1413, addressed to the Escheator in the county of Somerset, and commanding him to take the sense of a jury upon oath as to whether it would be to the damage or prejudice of the King or others, or not, if licence should be granted to John Strech, Robert Veel, William Gosse, William Neweton, Bartholomew Dure, and John Mascall, to give and assign seven messuages, one garden, and ten acres of land with appurtenances in Taunton and Shireford, and to the aforesaid Robert and William Shourte, to give five messuages and six acres of land with appurtenances in Yevelchestre, to the Prioress and Sisters of the House of White Hall of Yevelchestre, in aid of the maintenance of a Chaplain to celebrate for ever every day at the high altar in the church of the Holy Trinity of Yevelchestre for the souls of Joan, sometime wife of John Stourton, and of William Whittok, and for the souls of the parents of the said Joan and William Whittok, and for those of all the faithful departed. Also at the anniversaries of the said Joan and William Whittok every year on Thursday in Easter week in the aforesaid church, with Placebo and Dirige on the eve of the same day, with mass of Requiem with music on the same day at the altar aforesaid, to be held, observed, and solemnly celebrated for ever. The usual questions follow, to which the jurors were to return specific answers; namely, as to the precise injury, if any, which such licence would inflict, the persons from whom, and the services by which the lands were held, their true yearly value, the mesnes, if any, between the King and the aforesaid John and his fellows, and the lands which would remain to the aforesaid if the solicited licence were granted, for their sustaining and satisfying

the suits, views of frank-pledge, aids, tallages, and other feudal demands on the aforesaid donors, so that the country might incur no injury from the transaction, &c. The inquest thus ordered was taken at Yevelchestre, on the Friday next after the feast of S. Peter ad vincula, in the first year of Henry V., which in that year was coincident with the 4th of August, 1413, before Richard Stucle, the King's Escheator; and the jury, William Ponton, William Gorewell, Thomas Gane, Edmund Dygher, William Rodebere, Almaric atte Wethy, John Stert, John Dolle, John Bochell, Robert Petenyn, John Pytte, and William Smyffamour returned a verdict on oath that it would not be to the damage or prejudice of the King or others if such licence were given, and for the purpose aforesaid. They presented that the aforesaid seven messuages, garden, and ten acres of land with appurtenances in Taunton and Shireford were held of the Bishop of Winchester, as of his manor of Taunton, in socage, by the service of a payment to the said Bishop of xij^{s} x^{d} at the four principal terms of the year, in equal portions, and doing suit of the court of the said Bishop at the two days appointed by law to that purpose, namely hokkeday and Michaelmas, yearly at Taunton for all other services. That the lands were worth yearly in all issues according to their true value beyond reprises forty-six shillings and ten pence. That there was no mesne between the King and the aforesaid John and the others, save only the aforesaid Bishop. They further presented that the five messuages and six acres of land in Yevelchestre were held of the King in socage, by the service of an annual payment of eight pence on the feast of S. Michael the Archangel, and doing suit at Yevelchestre on the two days appointed by law for all other services. That the lands were worth in all

issues according to their true value xxij^{s} vj^{d} a year. That there was no mesne between the King and the aforesaid Robert and William Shourte. And further, that the manor of Radewell, with appurtenances, which was held of the Bishop of Bath by knight service, and was worth yearly in all issues xx^{li}, remained to the aforesaid John Strech; that two messuages, one hundred acres of land with appurtenances in Shepton Beauchamp, held of Robert Seymour by knight service, and worth yearly xv^{s}, and four messuages with appurtenances in Bryggewater, held of Lord de la Souch in socage, and worth yearly xl^{s}, remained to the aforesaid William Gosse; that two messuages with appurtenances in Yevelchestre, held of the King in socage, and worth yearly xx^{s}, remained to the aforesaid William Neweton; that one messuage, twenty acres of land with appurtenances in Wollavyngton, held of John Tochet by knight service, and worth yearly xx^{s}, remained to the aforesaid Bartholomew; that one messuage, sixty acres of land with appurtanences in Stapulton, held of William Bonvile by a service of x^{s} a year for all services, and worth yearly xl^{s}, remained to the aforesaid John Mascall; and that one messuage, sixty acres of land with appurtenances in Mertok, held of the Duke of Clarance by a service of v^{s} a year and worth yearly lx^{s}, remained to the aforesaid William Shourte, beyond the gift and assignment aforesaid; which were sufficient to meet the customs and services as of the lands proposed to be given, so for those which were retained by the respective possessors, and for all other burdens which they were accustomed or ought to sustain. Also that the said John, Robert, William, and the rest could be placed in any assizes, juries, and other recognizances, as they were accustomed to be before the gift aforesaid. So that the country would receive no

unusual burden or grievance by the transaction. In witness whereof the jurors affixed their seal to these presents. Dated in the day, year, and place aforesaid.* The letters patent were accordingly granted, after the payment by the Prioress of twenty pounds, and are dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 24th of March, 1414-5.†

The Sisters are exempted from payment of the disme, in a letter of John Roland, Vicar General, dated at Wells, the 1st of March, 1416-7,‡ and in one of Nicholas, Bishop of Bath and Wells, dated at Dogmersfeld, the 26th of December, 1419.§

Cristina, Prioress of White Hall, and Joan Whyttokes, Nun and Co-sister of the same Prioress, John Peny, Thomas Drapere, Gilbert Bouche, and David Hawes granted a power of attorney to John Smythe, of Northovere, to deliver for them and in their name to Robert Veel, Richard Serle, and John Glainville, full and peaceable seisin in and of all lands and tenements lately belonging to Mark Whyttok in Northovere and Somertone. Dated on Tuesday next after the feast of S. Michael the Archangel, in the second year of Henry VI., or the 5th of October, 1423.‖

The same parties, Cristina, Joan, and others, leased and confirmed the lands aforesaid to Robert Veel, Richard Serle, and John Glainville. Witnesses: Nicholas Moleyns, John Welwetone, jun., John Smythe of Northovere, Richard Dole, and others. Dated on the same day as the preceding document.¶

* Inq. ad q. d. 3 Hen. V. n. 14. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 314. Appendix, No. X.

† Pat. 3 Hen. V. p. 2. m. 27. Appendix, No. XI.

‡ Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{40}$. § Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{42}$.

‖ Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 11-98. Appendix, No. XII.

¶ Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 12-99. Appendix, No. XIII.

I presume that the Nun, Joan Whyttokes, of these documents was a daughter of the William and Agnes Whittok of the Patent. I should not forget to add that Robert Veel was the founder of "the House called Almeshous," at Ilchester, in 1426. The family was known in the town from an early period. I have found that a Robert Vele was collated by Bishop Drokenesford to the chantry of Blessed Mary, in the greater church of Ivelcestre, void by the death of William Glyde, on the Ides, the 15th, of July, 1312.*

Prioress Cristina was party in a suit, against Ralph Durburgh, William Hamme, Walter Wey, John Dyker, William Plays, and John Naysshe, of plea of assize of novel disseisin, and appointed as her attorney William Rider, or Gilbert Bouche, at Yevelchestre, on Tuesday next before the feast of S. Cuthbert, Bishop, 5 Henry VI., the 3rd of September, 1426† The case had been carried over from the assizes at Taunton, on Monday next after the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, the 9th of the September previous.‡ I find, however, no further notice of it.

Robert Veel and John Lane granted to John Lyte a burgage then not built in Yevelchestre, in the High Street, between a tenement of the Prioress of White Hall, lately in the occupation of Margery Carpotteres, on the east, and the house called Almeshous on the west, opposite the gate of the Preaching Friars. Witnesses : Richard Purye, Thomas Seymour, then Bailiffs of Yevelchestre, Nicholas Coker, and others. Dated at Yevelchestre, the 2nd of March, 7 Henry VI., 1428-9.§

* Reg. Drok. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 17.

† Rott. Assis. Div. Com. $\left.\begin{matrix} N \\ 2 \\ 42 \end{matrix}\right\}$ l. m. 112.

‡ Ib. m. 101 dors. § Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 13-117.

William Borde, of Badecombe, granted to William Boneville, Giles Daubeneye, and Thomas Beauchampe, Knights, and to John Stourtone, Alexander de la Lynde, Robert Veel, Nicholas Yonge, clerk, John Beoff, John Gregory, John Bolour, Edward Coleforde, John Baret, John Guldene, Hugh Kene, William Shourt, Henry Grey, John Pupelpenne, Richard Serle, Henry Havegode, and John Glainville, a burgage then not built in Yevelchestre, near the Market Place, between a tenement of the Prioress of White Hall, lately in the occupation of William Tancarde, on the north, and the tenement which once belonged to John Cole of Bruggewater, to the west, in which the gaol of old time used to be. Witnesses: Richard Purye, Thomas Seymour, Bailiffs, Edmund Dommere, Nicholas Coker, David Hawes, and many others. Dated at Yevelchestre, the 6th of March, in the seventh year of Henry VI., 1428-9.*

The same William Borde appointed David Hawes and John Denman his attornies to deliver to the aforesaid parties full seisin of the property aforesaid. Dated the 7th of March, 1428-9.†

Notwithstanding the various donations which have been successively related, the Prioress and her Sisters could with difficulty obtain a maintenance. Of the number of the inmates of the House we have no knowledge, or of their consequent requirements. But the fact that it was miserably poor is unquestionable, and, indeed, the subsequent history of the Sisterhood is to be read in the series of certificates which state their necessary exemption from the payment of the King's disme. These simple an-

* Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 15-115.
† Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 59-116.

nouncements are continued for a number of years, and poverty and privation are the burden of the tale. I have found in the Episcopal Registers the following instances.

With those of Canyngton and Barowe, and the Hospitals of S. John Baptist, Wells, and Bridgwater, the poor Nuns of Ivelchester are exempt, in a certificate dated at Wells, the 29th of June, 1416.*

The same are exempt, in a certificate dated at Wells, the 2nd of January, 1416-7.†

The Church of S. Mary the Less is returned in 1417 as very poor, and as not taxed nor accustomed to pay the disme. And it is added that on account of its extreme poverty there is no endowed vicarage in it. The officers who furnish the return profess themselves unable to discover from the Bishop's Registers and evidences, although they had carefully inspected and searched them,—"registris et evidenciis ejusdem reverendi patris penes nos diligenter inspectis et scrutatis"—the period from which the Church aforesaid had been appropriated to the House. It was, as we have seen, in the time of Bishop Jocelin, and soon after the year 1241. The certificate is dated at Wells, the 15th of January, 1416-7.‡

With the Nuns of Canyngton and Barewe the Sisters are expressly exempt, in a certificate dated at Wells, the 10th of January, 1417-8.§

Again, by name, in a certificate of the 3rd of March, 1417-8.‖

Again, by name, in answer to a brief dated the 19th of December, 1419.¶

* Reg. Bubwith, fol. cxvb.
† Reg. Bubwith, fol. cxxvij.
‡ Reg. Bubwith, fol. cxxviijb.
§ Reg. Bubwith, fol. cxxxviijb.
‖ Reg. Bubwith, fol. cxliiij.
¶ Reg. Bubwith, fol. clxixb.

In a certificate of the estimated value of benefices not taxed, the Church of S. Mary the Less is returned as of the value of xx^{s}. Dated at Wells, May, 1426.*

The Nuns of Ilchestre are, by name, together with those of Barwe and Canyngton, returned as exempt, in a certificate dated at the Bishop's Inn in London, on the 6th of February, 1435-6.†

This is the last notice that I have been able to discover, where the Nuns of Ilchester are mentioned by name. As the readers of my histories of Canyngton and Barrow are aware, there are various exemptions of those Houses for a long time subsequent to this period, indeed until a very few years before the date of their dissolution; but after the present entry the Sisters of Ilchester find no memorial, and the Priory of White Hall henceforth occurs no more.

It would be easy to speculate on the causes and mode of its suppression. Had the catastrophe, however, been the result of any fresh scandal, the Episcopal Registers, which at this period are in a perfect state, would have been certain to furnish us with the particulars. We are relieved, therefore, at least from this suspicion. The most probable conclusion is that it shared the fate which seems inseparable from Ilchester foundations in general, and that, after a long and difficult struggle for existence, it succumbed to the dire necessity of the *res angusta domi*, and languished through paralysis into natural dissolution.

Before I proceed with the annals of the Institution into which it was transformed, a few words will be necessary to complete its history.

It will be well in the first place to give such a list of the Prioresses as I have been able to furnish, referring the

* Reg. Stafford, fol. ix.

† Reg. Staff. ff. cxxjb. cxxij. Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{67}$.

reader to my previous pages for the details connected with each :—

1. Alice de la Zerde, or Yarde, occurs in 1315; was deprived in 1316.
2. Alice de Chilterne, or Chitterne, occurs in 1321, 1323, and 1324; was deprived in 1325.
3. Cecily de Draycote occurs in 1334, 1335, and 1342.
4. Mary in 1370.
5. Matilda in 1377.
6. Cristina in 1406, 1423, and 1426.

Agnes Chaumpflour and Agnes de Wynterbourn were Sisters of the House in 1335, and Joan Whyttokes in 1423.

I have already described the present appearance of the site of the Priory. It lay on the bank of the Ivel,—between which and its buildings the town wall was the only barrier, which snugly surrounded it on its north and west sides,—and close to the North Gate. The entrance was in Chepstrete, the most populous thoroughfare of the town, close to the County Prison, and immediately opposite its impropriated Church of S. Mary the Less. Its architectural peculiarities are unknown, though we may hazard the very probable conjecture that, when first consecrated to its sacred use, it was already an ancient structure, dating from a period commencing at the very latest with the reign of King John, and presenting the noble features of the "Early English," if not the sombre severity of the "Norman" style, and that subsequently it was, either wholly or in part, rebuilt during the still more gorgeous "Decorated" æra. Although from its position it was necessarily confined, there was room abundantly sufficient for an edifice of no mean pretensions to architectural excellence. Mediæval builders did not require large spaces, or what are called fine sites, for the erection of their inimitable works. Angular spots and of irregular outline, at which most of their modern suc-

cessors would stand aghast, were apparently welcomed by those all-accomplished workmen as what might elicit the powers of minds to which difficulties seemed to be created only to vanish and be overcome.

I reserve for a future page the full enumeration of the possessions of the House, where it will be given in its chronological place, in connection with the dissolution of the establishment into which it merged.

I have hardly need, in conclusion, to draw the reader's attention to the salient points in the history of the Priory, and among them the vigilant supervision of their ecclesiastical superiors which the Nuns of White Hall so constantly experienced. While the exemplary zeal and tenderness with which the Bishops discharged their duty, and that on occasions of great and varied difficulty, must be apparent from the foregoing narrative, it is equally evident that no attempt was made to palliate or overlook irregularities, to hinder their exposure, or to evade their punishment. Unhappily, there was in this instance only too frequent a necessity for episcopal interference, and the severities which it brought in its train. On a review of the annals of White Hall I am constrained with sorrow to admit that it is by far the worse example of a Mediæval Nunnery that I have ever met with. It cannot, of course, be denied that immoralities acquire a notoriety which virtues do not usually obtain, and that, while we have minute information of the former, the latter have frequently no earthly memorial. True as this is, and admitted to the full, White Hall must be allowed to have been on many occasions an exception to the general excellence of such establishments, all the more conspicuous from its evil rarity. It was not an ordinary specimen of a Religious House, as some may be pleased to imagine, but

one which, on the contrary, mainly owed its rescue from oblivion to the crimes and scandals which disgracefully signalized it.

It will be recollected that our last notice of the Sisterhood was a declaration of their poverty in the year 1436. Between that date and 1463, twenty-seven years afterwards, White Hall suffered its third transformation and became a Free Chapel. We have here an entirely different, though to many an equally interesting, subject of enquiry. By this term some have understood those Chapels which had been founded within parishes by the devotion of parishioners for such of the inhabitants as lived remote from their parish church, and which had no endowment but what was of the gift of the founder or other benefactors. Others have taken a Free Chapel to mean that, being built by the liberality of some good man as a chapel of ease to the Mother Church, it was "Free" to the parishioners, who were bound to attend the latter, to come or not to come to it as they pleased. And yet others have maintained that such Chapels were "Free," inasmuch as they were of the King's foundation, and exempt from the jurisdiction of the Diocesan. The last definition I hold to be correct. The first is clearly inapplicable to the Free Chapel of Ilchester, as it was not only not remote from but had the main street only between it and the Parish Church. In the case before us there was evidently a simple change from a Priory to a Chapel, the latter enjoying the same revenues as the former, which, however inadequate to the support of a Sisterhood, were sufficient for the maintenance of a single priest.

The history of Free Chapels, as well as of the Chantries, with the fate of which they were closely united, is

part of that of the Church at large. This of White Hall is deserving of particular attention, as its annals may be taken as a specimen of those of similar foundations in the mode in which the presentations to it were made, the manner in which it was served, and the order of its suppression and final alienation from the objects of its founder.

Before we proceed to the series of Incumbents, the notice of a transaction which took place in the interval just referred to must not be omitted.

A subsidy was demanded of the Clergy in the year 1445, to aid the King against the Saracens and Turks. On this occasion the Church of S. Mary the Less was taxed at iij^{d}. The return bears date the 8th of May, 1445.*

The Episcopal Registers supply us with the following Incumbents of White Hall.

In a list of the Chaplains with their cures in the Archdeaconry of Wells and Deanery of Ylchestre, from whom a subsidy was levied, occurs the first in the person of John Bonez, of Ylchestre, against whom stands the sum of vj^{s} viij^{d}. The return is dated at Banewell, the 3rd of September, 1463.†

This date is specially important, inasmuch as it fixes that of the change of the Institution from a Priory to a Free Chapel to some period between the 6th of February, 1435-6, and the 3rd of September, 1463, an interval of twenty-seven years.

Although John Bonez is simply described as Chaplain "of Ylchestre," we learn that he was the Chaplain of White Hall by the entry which announces his death and the appointment of his successor.

On the last day but one of November, 1485, William Elyott, one of the clerks of the King's chancery, was ad-

* Reg. Bekynton, fol. xxviijb. † Reg. Bek. fol. cclxxxx.

mitted to the Church or Chapel of White Hall in Yevelchestre, vacant by the death of John Banys (evidently the John Bonez of the entry of 1463), the last incumbent, to which he was presented by Henry, by the grace of God King of England and France, the true patron.*

On the 10th of March, 1497-8, Bishop King collated William Soper to it by lapse.†

On the same day, Thomas Edyall was presented to the Church of S. Mary the Less.‡

On the 20th of August, 1502, the Churches of S. Mary the Less and S. John Baptist were united to S. Mary the Greater. The small revenues of each of these churches are stated to be wholly unequal to the fitting and decent maintenance of two rectors, and that they were accordingly united for ever and made one parish, with reservation of all episcopal and archidiaconal rights. John Chaundeler, rector of S. Mary the Greater, was the first rector of the united parishes.§

On the 30th of August, 1519, Master John Moyne was admitted to the perpetual and Free Chapel of Whitehall, void by the death of William Soper, the last "possessor," on the presentation of Richard, Bishop of London, Edmund, Bishop of Salisbury, Sir John Ffineux, Knt., Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Sir George Nevile, Knt., Lord of Burgavenny, and Sir Robert Poyntz, Knt., the Feoffees of the said Chapel, at the instance and request of Henry Stafford, Earl of Wilts.‖

On the 3rd of May, 1525, Walter Cokkes, LL.B., was presented to the Free Chapel of Whitehall, void by the

* Reg. Stillington, fol. cxxx.
† Reg. King, fol. xiij. ‡ Reg. King, ib.
§ Reg. King, ff. ciijb, ciiij. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 167.
‖ Reg. Wolsey, ff. vij, vijb. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6967, p. 26b.

death of John Moyne, "ultimi custodis seu gubernatoris ejusdem," on the presentation of Sir Richard Gray, Knt., and John Arundell, Thomas Golde, and John Bonvile, Esquires, for that turn only, by the grant and concession of Edmund, late Bishop of Salisbury, Sir George Nevell, Knt., Lord Burgevenny, and John Fynex, Justice of the Common Pleas, the Feoffees.*

In 1535, during the incumbency of Walter Cokkes, the "Valor" was taken of all ecclesiastical property. I have too frequently described the nature and objects of this return, to do more on the present occasion than to record the fact. The following is an exact translation of the entry descriptive of the revenues of White Hall :—

WHITEHALL CHAPEL.

WALTER COCKES, PERPETUAL CHAPLAIN.

Yearly value of the Free Chapel in rents of divers parcels of land, viz.,		
In Yevelchestre, ..	xiij^{li} xix^{s} iiij^{d}	
In Taunton, ..	iiij^{li} xij^{d}	xviij^{li} xiij^{s} viij^{d}
In Sock, ...	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
From thence deduct,		
In rents resolute to the King for land in Yevelchestre	xxv^{s}	
To the Lord Marquis of Dorset for land in Chestremede	v^{s}	xliiij^{s}
Salary of John Cuffe, steward ..	x^{s}	
To the Bp. of Winchester, for rents resolute of land in Taunton ..	iiij^{s}	
And there remains clear ..		xvj^{li} ix^{s} viij^{d}
The tenth from thence ..		xxxij^{s} xj^{d} ob. q.†

* Reg. Clarke, ff. 16b, 17. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6967, p. 37.
† Val. Eccl. Com. Som. fol. lxiij. Vol. j. 199.

On the 7th of April, 1545, at Wyvellescombe, George Carew was admitted to the Free Chapel of Whythall, in or near Ivelchester, void by the death of the last incumbent [no name given], on the presentation of Michaell Mallet, gent., patron for this turn only.*

On the 28th of June, in the 37th of Henry VIII., 1545, this George Carew, clerk, Archdeacon [of Totness, 1534-1549], and master of the Chapel, leased its property to Thomas Dewport, for a term of forty years from the Lady-day last past, at the annual rent of £16 10s. This sum constituted its endowment.

It was the last time that the lands were let to lease for the maintenance of the incumbent, and in conformity with the intent of the ancient donors. The Monasteries, greater and less, had already become the victims of sacrilege at once mean and remorseless. Chapels and chantries were now threatened, and it seemed to many that Parish Churches would soon follow, and that everything out of which money could by any possibility be extracted was destined to be sacrificed to the accursed greed of a band of reprobates, with whom gain was godliness, and so-called Reformation a cloke for the basest and most shameless robbery.

In Hilary term, on the first day of February, the 36th of Henry VIII., 1544-5, Sir Edward North, Chancellor of the Court of Augmentations, exhibited in the said court a warrant with sign manual of the King, and petitioned for it to be enrolled, which was accordingly done. It ran as follows: "Henry theight" etc. "To our righte truſtie and welbeloued Counſaillour Sir Edwarde Northe knyghte

* Reg. Knight, fol. 24b. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6967, p. 54.

Chauncellour of our Courte of thaugmentac'ons of the reuenues of our Crowne gretyng Where dyuerſe and sondrye Colleges hoſpitalles* ffree Chappelles and Chaunteryes for dyuers cauſes and conſiderac'ons by the voluntarie surrendours gyftes and grauntes of the Deanes Maiſters incumbentes and cheefe gouernours and of the Canons bretherne fellowes and Mynyſters of the same are diſſolued and co'men to our handes, In conſiderac'on wherof our mynde and pleaſure is to gyue to the Deanes Maſters incumbentes and cheife gouernours of the saide Colleges hoſpitalles free chappelles and Chaunteries and to the Canons bretherne fellowes and Mynyſtres therof hauyng perpetuall stipendes or lyuynges in the same before the diſſoluc'on therof suche annuities or yerly so'mes of money or other reuenues or yerly proffectes for their lyuynges for terme of their lyues as shalbe mete and conuenyent vntill suche tyme as the same persons shalbe otherwiſe aduanced or promoted by vs to so'me benyfice or benyfices or other condygne promoc'on to the clere yerly value of suche annuyties or yerly reuenues as shalbe aſſigned to theym for their said lyuynges ffor aſmuche as we conſideryng the cauſes of our weightie affaires connot withoute greate paynes and inquietnes conuenyently attende and aſſigne the saide annuyties and lyuynges of the saide perſones nor to aſſigne the warrauntes of the patentes therof to be made and graunted to theym with suche conuenyent spede as our pleaſure is the same to be donne for the spedye diſpatche eaſe and quyetneſe of the same perſones, knowe ye that we truſtyng in your fydelytie and approued wiſedome doo gyue vnto you by theſe preſentes full power and auctoritie to appoynte and aſ-

* The contractions in the original are here given in italics.

ſigne frome tyme to tyme aſwell to the Deanes Maſters incumbentes and cheife gouernours as to the Canons bretherne fellowes and other Mynyſters hauyng perpetuall lyuynges of suche Collegies hoſpitalles free chappelles and Chaunteries whiche be nowe diſſolued and co'me to our handes or hereafter shalbe diſſolued and co'me to our handes in maner and fourme aforſaide suche annuyties or yerly so'mes of money landes tenementes parſonages or other reuenues or yerly profites being or hereafter to be within the ordre and survey of your office as you ſhall thinke mete and conuenyent by your diſcreſc'on according to the behavours degrees qualities and condic'ons of the same perſones for terme of their lyves or vnto suche tyme as the same perſones shalbe otherwiſe aduanced or promoted by vs to som'e benyfice or benyfices or other conding promoc'ons to the clere yerly value of the same annuyties or other reuenues so to theym aſſigned for their livinges, and that you shall and maye make Co'myſſions vndre our greate seale of our Courte of thaugmentac'ons of the reuenues of our Crowne to practiſe conclude and agre with the saide Deanes Maiſters incumbentes cheife gouernours and other Mynyſtours of the saide Collegies hoſpitalles free chappelles and chaunteries for thaſſigmente and appoyntment of suche annuyties or so'mes of money yerly or other reuenues so to be aſſigned to theym for their lyuynges vppon the surrendour of the same Colliges hoſpitalles free chappelles and Chauntries, and that you by vertue hereof shall and maye make in our name seuerall lettres patentes of the saide annuyties yerly so'mes of moneye or other yerly reuenues so to be aſſigned to euery of the saide perſones in due fourme vndre the greate seale of our saide Courte of thaugmentac'ons of the reuenues of our

Crowne remaynyng in your cuſtodye frome tyme to tyme And this byll aſſigned with our hande shalbe to you sufficient warraunte and diſcharge frome tyme to tyme withoute any other byll aſſigned or other warraunte to be sued frome vs in that behalfe Eny statute acte ordyn[a]nce or p*r*ouyſyon heretofore had or made or eny other thyng cauſe or matter to the cont[a]ry not withſtondyng."*

The failing health of the King, combined with some qualms of conscience which appear to have visited him in the last years of his life, prevented for a while the carrying into effect of this atrocious scheme. With the accession, however, of his weak and ill-directed successor, the hopes of those who craved for further aggrandisement from the patrimony of the Church revived, and means were not long wanting of putting their design into execution. The Act for the suppression of Hospitals, Chapels, and Chantries was passed in the second year of Edward VI., and surveys were immediately taken of their endowments and possessions of every kind, with a view to the disposal of them by sale. The return of the Chapel of White Hall presents as plain and business-like an inventory of the property and appointments, as if they were those of some ordinary estate which had never been solemnly consecrated to holy uses. I give it exactly as it stands. The "plate and ornaments" were happily rescued from the hands of the robbers. The bell which had called the worshippers to prayer was not so easily concealed, and therefore makes a prominent figure among the items of the spoil.

* Miscell. Books, Off. Augment. vol. 104, (Orders and Decrees, vol. xiv.) ff. 109, 109b. (2nd. nrs.)

Il-chester Burrowe	The ffree Chapell of the holy Trynytie of Whyte-hall ther.	Is yerely wo^{r}the in	The rent of the same Chapell w^{t} all the landes, tent^{es}, and hereditament^{es} belonging to the same, letten to farme to Thom^{a}s Duporte. for terme of xl yeres. by Indenture datyd the xxviijth daye of June in the xxxvijth yere of the reigne of oure late sou*er*aigne lorde of famouse memory Kinge henry the viijth as in the same Indenture more playnly maye appere	xvj^{li} x^{s}	
		Plate and Ornam^{tes}	None		Bell metall c lb.
		Memor^{d}.	George Carrowe clerke incu'bent ther.		
			The Chapell is scituate w^{t}in the towne of Ilchester.		
			No fundac'on shewed.*		

At the same time a minute survey was taken of the lands belonging to the Chapel. These had been the property of the Priory, as will be seen from many of the particulars, which vividly recall to our thoughts the ancient donors and their benefactions. I have fortunately discovered the original return in a volume of miscellaneous papers among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, and, as it is a document of primary importance to the complete understanding of our subject, I give it in English,

* Certificate of Chantries, No. 42. n. 138.

but without abridgement, and as nearly as possible in its original form. It presents a complete picture of the possessions of the Chapel on the 25th of June, in the second year of Edward VI., 1548.

Rent of the Chapel aforesaid, with manor house of the same and garden adjacent, per annum	x^{s}
Rent of one close of pasture called Hichins, containing xx acres, leased to Richard Beton and others, for term of life, by indenture, per annum	lx^{s}
Rent of one close of pasture called Five acres, leased to John Sampson and others, by indenture, for term of life, per annum	v^{s}
Rent of one tenement with iij acres of arable land and one acre of meadow in Sockemershe, and of a fifth part of one close of pasture called Newmede, and of iij acres of meadow of Sockemershe, of the demesne of the lord, leased to John Whettell and others, by indenture, for term of life, per annum ..	xiiij^{s} viij^{d}
Rent of one tenement with xiij acres of arable land hard by the Spittell, and of iij acres of meadow, of which two acres lying hard by the Cawsey, and the other acre hard by the Spettill, and of one close of pasture containing vij acres hard by the Mille in Ilchester, leased to Thomas Bloughton and others, by indenture, for term of life	xxxiiij^{s} viij^{d}

The Chapel of Whitehall — Is worth in

Rent of one tenement in the borough of Ilchester, with one acre of arable land in Coleplate, in the plain of Lymmyngton, and of one acre of arable land lying in Worthehill, and of one acre of arable land hard by Newe close, of one acre of meadow in Newe mede, and of one acre of meadow in Sockemershe, and of one barn, with iiij acres of arable land hard by Mowrewaie, and of one malthouse in the borough of Ilchester, with one acre of arable land called Batteacre. Also of ten acres of pasture lying outside the Bowe, in the borough aforesaid, leased to Humphry Blowghton and others, by indenture, for term of life, per annum	lxij^{s} iiij^{d}	xix^{li} xiij^{s} vj^{d}
Rent of one close of pasture, called Corne Spetill, containing by estimation x acres, leased to John Belly and others, by indenture, for term of life	xxvj^{s} viij^{d}	
Rent of vj sesters of meadow, each sester containing one acre and half a rod in Ilchester, now leased to the aforesaid John Bellie and others, by copy, per annum	xiiij^{s} vj^{d}	
Rent of one tenement and iij acres of arable land, and of one acre of meadow in Sockemershe, of ij acres and a half of meadow in Fotesmede, and of one acre of meadow in Newmede. Also of two small	xij^{s} vj^{d}	

closes, called Hemplandes, leased to William Owyn and others, by indenture, for term of life, per annum	
Rent of one tenement, and iij acres of arable land, and of one acre of meadow, and of the fifth part of one close of pasture called Newmede, with iij acres of meadow in Sockemershe, of the demesne of the lord, leased to John Whegon and others, by indenture, for term of life, per annum	xiiij^{s} viij^{d}
Rent of one water mill for corn, with one close called the Milham in Ilchester, leased to William Berde and others, by indenture, for term of life, per annum	xl^{s}
Rent of one curtilage, with garden adjacent, hard by the Shamell, and of viij acres of pasture in Chilterne lease, in the parish of Chilterne Domer, leased to Thomas Rodde and others, by indenture, for term of life	ix^{s} ij^{d}
Rent of one tenement, with garden, and of iij acres of arable land, of one acre of meadow in Sockemershe, of one acre of meadow in Newclose, and of ij acres and a half of meadow in Fotesmede, leased to Joan Roper, widow, per annum ..	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Rent of v acres of pasture, lying in the close called Newclose in the plain of Ilchester, leased to John Cuffe, per annum	v^{s}

Rent of three tenements, or burgages, in Taunton, and of viij acres of meadow in the same place, leased to John Walferde, per annum ..	xxxiij^{s} viij^{d}
Rent of two tenements, or burgages, with gardens, in Taunton aforesaid, leased to Robert Bowier, alias Thompson, per annum ..	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Rent of two tenements, or burgages, with gardens, in Taunton aforesaid, leased to George Hamley, per annum	xxiiij^{s}

From which must be deducted :—

Reprises.

Rent resolute to our Lord the King, for fee farm rent of the borough of Ilchester, per annum ..	xxv^{s} vj^{d} extinguished.
Rent resolute to our Lord the King, for suit of his borough of Ilchester aforesaid, yearly	xij^{d} extinguished.
Rent resolute to our Lord the King, yearly, for Chilterne lease ..	vij^{d} extinguished.
Fee of Walter Bragge, Steward and Receiver there, by letters patent granted to him for term of his life, per annum	xx^{s} The King will discharge.

Clear value, per annum, xix^{li} xiij^{s} vj^{d}

"Memorand' that the mano^{r} of Ilchester aforesaid is the lorde marques Dorset*es*."

Examined by William Bourne, deputy of William Morice, esq. Supervisor of Particulars of our Lord the King in the County aforesaid.

Then come the instructions for leasing the property, in English, as follows :—

"xxv^to die Junij anno Sc'do R' E. vj^ti pro Joh'e ffounteney mil' de London.

My lorde p'tecto^rs graces pleasure is that S^r John ffounteney Knighte shall haue in ferme the p^rmisses And therfor comaundethe that a lease be made to hym of the same for xxj yeares vnder the seale of the Courte of Augmentac'ons yeldinge to the Kinges ma^tie the saide yerelie rente accordinge to suche order as other leases vse to passe in the same Courte, W^th this p'uiso to be conteyned in the saide lease that if at any tyme after thensealinge of this Lease the saide S^r John ffounteyne his executors or assignes or any other for hym or them or in his or there right shall or doo expell or put out of any of the p'misses any of the ten^antes or fermo^rs havinge of late by Indenture or by Copie of Courte roll vntill suche tyme as their estates therin shalbe tried or Adiudged to be voyde in any of the Kinges highnes courtes of Recordes havinge Aucthoritie to holde plee of the same or doe Decaye or suffer to be decayed any habitacon or dwellinge house or ferme in or vpon any of the p'misses That then and from thensforthe the the saide Leasse to be voyde.'"*

* MS. Harl. 701, ff. 18, 19. Appendix, No. XIV.

It does not appear that this arrangement was ever carried into effect, as both the name of the lessee and all reference to the transaction are omitted from the preamble of the grant which will presently be before us, and which recites the various leases granted by the Crown previous to the final disposal of the property.

To a reader who has perused with attention the foregoing enumeration of the lands belonging to the Chapel, I have hardly need to suggest the recurrence of names previously noticed in the earlier documents. Thus the Hichins, Batteacre, and Mowrewaie of this are the Heychyng, Battedeacre, and Morstrete of the ancient charters. Some of them yet retain their olden appellations, with those slight modifications which the lapse of centuries must necessarily produce. Fotesmede, for instance, Mr. Buckler informs me, is still known as Footsmead and Footmead.

I presume that from the revenues thus unscrupulously appropriated the Crown granted to the Incumbent a yearly pension of vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}. I do not find a record of the fact, but the name of "George Carewe, clerk, last incumbent of the Free Chapel of Holy Trinity in Ilchester," appears in Cardinal Pole's Pension Book as a recipient of that sum in 1556*

How he was to be maintained I know not—perhaps he received the overplus of the revenues until the lands passed to other owners,—but on the 10th of May, 1561, Queen Elizabeth presented Baptist Willoughbie, clerk, to the Rectory or Chapel of Whytehall, and directed her letters patent for his induction to Gilbert, Bishop of Bath and Wells. The letters are dated, witness the Queen, at

* Card. Pole's Pension Book, fol. xxxb. Add. MS. 8102, B.M, fol. xxxb. Appendix, No. XV.

Westminster, on the day aforesaid.* This is the last presentation to Whitehall that I have been able to find.

The Queen, who appears to have had no kind of disinclination to profit by the evil deeds of her predecessors, found a willing agent in the work of spoliation in one whom every feeling of ordinary rectitude should have kept true and faithful to his sacred trust. The Bishop to whom the letters patent were addressed, Gilbert Berkeley, who occupied the episcopal throne of Wells from 1559 to 1581, wrote, between two and three years after his receipt of the same, a letter to Secretary Cecil, which I have found among the Lansdowne MSS. and here give entire. It is a remarkable one in many respects, exhibiting the writer, in strict agreement with the character attributed to him elsewhere, as more careful of his bodily health than of his duty as a sworn defender of the Church, and giving a fearful picture of the results of that sacrilegious movement, which, originated by the royal and noble personages of the day, extended its withering influence to some of the inferior classes of society, and deadened them to a sense of enormities which in other and better times they would have been the first to denounce. Perhaps, however, the most significant and valuable fact which it reveals is that an aider and abettor of the wrong thought it necessary that some order should be taken to keep the commonalty quiet, who naturally and most properly felt that their own welfare was inseparably bound up with that of their Church, and prudently recommended that the spoilers should proceed with due caution, "that the common people may cease from grudging."

"It maie pleaſe yo^{r}. honor to be advertyſed, that longe er thys accordynge to my bounden dewtie, I had made Certi-

* Pat. 3 Eliz. p. 8. m. 21, *olim* 25.

ficat to the Quenes ma^ties^ moſt honorable Councell for and concernynge the Chappelles and the nombre of howſoldes belonginge to the ſame: had it not byn, that no man (and not without good conſideracon) ſhuld come into the Courte: vnleſt it were well knowen from whens he came. for aight weakes agoo, I and my whole howſolde have removed from the Towne of Welles, and (thankes be to God) have contynued all hitherto in good healthe. the cawſe was, that then God had viſited one howſe in Welles: and therfore I was conſtrayned to remove, and have ever ſythens remayned in a Towne called Monton. Where God be prayſed, nor nere thereabouts, there ys anye ſycknes: and nowe by this bearer the Archedecon of Tanton chaplen to my Lord the Erle of Pembroke, I have ſent the Certificat of the nombre of the Chappelles w^th^in the dyoces of Bathe and Welles: and of the howſes belonginge to the ſaid Chappelles. And furthermore these are to doo yo^r^ Honor to vnderſtande, that ſyns the inquiſition made, for the ſaid Chappelles (notw^th^ſtanding it was ſo ſecretelie don, as poſſiblie might) yet certayn Patrons, ffermors of impropriations, and ſuch, as have yeares in benefices have not only geven out evill brutes for the pullinge downe of all Chappelles, but alſo ſome of them have putt in vse, to take downe the leadde of Chappelles and to cover them agayne with tyeles I thought it was my dewtie, thus much to ſignifie vnto yo^r^. Honor, hopinge by yo^r^. meanes, ſome order maie be taken, that the comon people maie ceaſſe from grudgynge. I leave any longer to trowble yo^r^. Honor at this preſent: and ſhall not faile w^th^ my contynuall praiers to praie to God for yo^r^. Honors healthe and proſperous eſtate duringe lyfe. At Moncton, this 17. of Novembre. 1563.

Yo^r^. Honors dailie Orator.

Gilb' Bathe & Welles

Endorsed—

> To the right honorable S^r^ Willm Cicill Knight Secretarie to the Quenes Highnes, and one of her Ma^ties^. moſt honorable Privie Councell yeve theſe."*

Little now remains to be offered, as when the property was alienated from its rightful uses, either absorbed in royal revenues or turned into a part of a wealthy subject's estate, my province and labour alike are ended.

On the 15th of January, 1573-4, Queen Elizabeth demised to Ralph Hope, and his executors and assigns, all that Free Chapel called Whitehall, with all its rights, members and appurtenances. Also all and singular houses, buildings, messuages, cottages, mills, woods, waters, watercourses, &c., &c., in Ilchester, Northover, Lymyngton, and Taunton, in any way belonging or pertaining to the said Free Chapel, all of which were then or lately in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Dewport, or his assigns, and had come into possession of the Crown by virtue of an Act of Parliament lately passed for the dissolution of Chantries and other similar institutions in the County of Somerset. All large trees which were or were reputed for timber, and all fair saplings which might grow into such trees, were reserved to the Crown. The lands, &c., were to be held by the said Ralph Hope and his executors and assigns, from the time at which a certain indenture and lease of George Carowe, clerk, Archdeacon, and then Master of the said Chapel, to Thomas Dewport, dated the 28th of June, 37 Henry VIII., 1545, for forty years from the Lady-day last past, should determine, for a term of twenty-one years thencefrom, at an annual rent of sixteen pounds and ten shillings of lawful English money.

* MS. Lansd. 6. n. 80. ff. 188, 189.

The letters patent are dated at Westminster, on the day aforesaid.

Little more than two years afterwards the Queen demised to Sir Christopher Hatton, Knt., then Christopher Hatton, Esq., and his heirs, five acres of pasture, with appurtenances, at Yerdend, then or lately in the tenure or occupation of Richard Sansan or his assigns, and one house called a stable in Ilchester aforesaid, lately in the tenure of Richard Cuffe or his assigns, and one house called Whitehall, with its appurtenances, and five acres of land, with appurtenances, in Ilchester aforesaid, near Tuckers lez, in the tenure or occupation of John Phillips or his assigns, at an annual rent of ten shillings and two pence, with similiar reservations to those aforesaid. The lease was dated at Gorhambury, the 3rd of April, 1576.

Further, the Queen demised to Gawin Phelips and Giles Ffathers all that Free Chapel of Holy Trinity of Whitehall, with all and singular its rights, &c., &c., and with the same reservations, from the Lady-day of 1606, for a term of twenty-one years next following that date, at a yearly rent of fifteen pounds, nineteen shillings, and ten pence. The letters patent are dated the 4th of July, 1587.

Lastly came the sale and final alienation of the property. The Queen granted to Michael Stanhope, Esq., one of the Grooms of the Privy Chamber, and Edward Stanhope, LL.D., one of the Masters in Chancery, and their heirs and assigns, in consideration of the sum of four thousand, eight hundred, and seventy-three pounds, one shilling, and eight pence, of lawful money of England,—together with large estates elsewhere, belonging to various Religious Houses; Upton, in the parish of Blewbery, in Berkshire; the Rectory and Church of Wigenhall, in Norfolk; a moiety

of the tithes, &c., in Carleton Colvile, in Suffolk; tenements in Honey Lane, in the City of London; Harden, &c., in the County of Chester; Pendevy, in the County of Cornwall; Hucknall Torkerd, &c., in the County of Nottingham; and a tenement in Whiting streete, in Bury, in the County of Suffolk—all that Free Chapel, commonly called Whitehall, otherwise the Free Chapel of the Holy Trinity of Whitehall aforesaid, with all and singular its rights, members, and appurtenances, lying and being in the vill, parish, or hamlet, of Ilchester, Northover, Taunton, and Lymyngton, or in any one of them, or elsewhere in the County of Somerset, pertaining to the said Free Chapel, estimated at the clear annual value of fifteen pounds, nineteen shillings, and ten pence, parcel of the possessions in the Queen's hands by virtue of an Act of Parliament, &c., &c. By this instrument, which recites in its preamble the leases already given, the grantees were to hold the property for their sole and exclusive use and benefit, with reservation of all Crown rights,—(not a syllable, however, is added about the providing of a Chaplain for the people thus summarily defrauded of the bequest of their forefathers)—of the Queen and her heirs and successors, as of the manor of Eastgrenewich, by fealty only, in free and common socage, and not in chief nor by knight service, for all other rents, services, exactions, and demands whatsoever, from the Michaelmas last past. Then follow exonerations of all corrodies, rents, fees, annuities, pensions, portions, &c., hitherto due from the several estates. And the grant concludes with the usual remission of account, fine, &c., and bears date, witness the Queen, at Westminster, the 27th of June, 1600.*

* Pat. 42 Eliz. p. 19, mm. 1—11.

Thus ends the history of White Hall in Ilchester. Consecutively a Hospital, a Priory, and a Free Chapel, it was apparently destined to a long and useful existence in the latter character, had not influences been brought to bear against it which hundreds of institutions of tenfold greater power had been unable successfully to resist. With those influences nothing was sacred, or worthy of so much as a thought when opposed to schemes of private aggrandisement, and the thirst of adding more to much. It did not even, apparently, suggest itself to the spoilers, so blind and infatuated had they become, that their new possessions were solemnly barred against their entrance by the most fearful of anathemas, and that disaster would as surely follow the appropriation as night succeeds the day. "De ecclesia," however, as S. Jerome had of old put it, "qui aliquid furatur, Judæ proditori comparatur." The sin soon attracted its curse. The experience of a few short years opened the unwilling eyes of many to the terrible truth that sacrilege transmits its peculiar legacy and entails its peculiar woe, and that a man may court perdition both of body and soul to establish a family, deep in whose heart the very possessions so acquired will be as a plague spot, engendering a certain and in numberless instances a speedy dissolution. "Church land," as Abp. Whitgift told Queen Elizabeth, "added to an ancient inheritance, hath proved like a moth fretting a garment, and secretly consumed both; or like the eagle that stole the coal from the altar and thereby set her nest on fire, which consumed both her young eagles and herself that stole it." It is, perhaps, the most fearful lesson which the history of the last three centuries in England can inculcate, a lesson which, indeed, may with certainty be learned not only from the denunciations of

Inspiration expressly threatening the result, but—what to some would be equally if not more conclusive — from the visitations of heralds, and the contents of muniment chests, which give their testimony without favour or affection. Neither let us imagine that the curse has lost aught of its ancient power. The "Fiat. Fiat. Amen.," which holy hearts inspired and holy lips pronounced, does not lose its virtue with the lapse of centuries or the change of this world's dynasties. Time is nothing. Delay gives but a fictitious confidence. The wrong continues, and the continuance of wrong does but add sin to sin. And that man must be blind indeed to what is passing around him, who cannot see evidences unmistakeable of old transgression still finding out victims in the representatives of the perpetrators, overtaking them along paths which other men tread in safety, thwarting them in ways wherein others have their will, clean putting out some, harassing and torturing others, and never sleeping or satisfied until the last of the doomed race becomes the tenant of his oftentimes early grave. Nor let any one think that these remarks are misplaced. It is the glory of the study of days of old to discern therein the finger of God, and to endeavour to interpret by such a reference the changes and chances of after times. Happy the scholar, who so learns the things which have been as to improve and elevate those which are, and, by inducing restitution and satisfaction for injury, kills that evil at the root which would sooner or later bear fruit of death. The wrong is ever crying for vengeance—surely the word of warning is never out of place. The examples are on all sides, and merciful is the hand that points to their teaching. "The destruction of Korah," says Clement Spelman, "persuades more with the Israelites than the soft voice of Moses; and

such oratory may take thee ;—Hell hath frighted some to Heaven. View, then, the insuccess of sacrilegious persons in all ages,—that will prevail with thee. For had Korah and his accomplices been visited after the visitation of other men, thou and I, nay, perhaps the whole congregation of Israel, would have believed what they said as truth,—it sounded so like reason ; and approved what they did as pious—it looked so like religion. But their end otherwise informed them, and better instructed us."

APPENDIX.

No. I.

[Reg. Drok. fol. lviij.]

Carte Albe Aule Ieuelcestr'

Carta. W. Dacus de donac'one dom' Albe Aule Ieuelcestr' Dat' p' cop'. Om'ibz xp'i fidelibz ad quos p'sens sc'ptum p'uen'it. W. Dacus et'nam in vero saluatore salt'm Nou'it vniu'sitas v'ra me diuine pietatis intuitu dedisse & lib'alit' concessisse & hac carta mea confirmasse d'no deo in puram & p'petuam elemosinam domu' de Iuelcestr' que vocat^{r} Alba Aula cu' toto mesuag' ad eand'm domu' p'tine'te, & duas domos eid'm domui vicinas quas Rog's de Donehefd tenuit & amb' molendina que possidebam in villa de Iuelcestr' cum tota t'ra arabili que ad p'd'ca molendina p'tinet & cum vno sextario p^{a}ti ad d'ca molendina p'tine'te Ita t'n qd molicio mea & familie mee in eisd'm molendinis quieta sit ab om'i . . . dedi eciam deo domu' que fuit Aylwardi lagga cu' toto mesuagio ad eand'm domu' p'tine'te & dece' acras t're . . mesuagiu' iacentes & decem & octo acras t're que vocant^{r} Heychyng & q'nqz acras t're q' vocant^{r} crofta Panchot que iacent in p'te boriali de Pulbring' & duos solidos de s'uicio teneme'ti Henr' Caretarij, scil't de vna v'gata t're ap'd Sowey duodecim denar', & de vno mesuag' in villa de Iuelcestr' duodecim denar', & septe' acras t're que fueru't de Haywarderia scil't vnam acram q' vocat^{r} battedeacre, & vna' ac^{a}m que iacet iux^{a} domu' lep'sor' & duas acras & dimid' in p'te occident' a domo lepros', & duas ac^{a}s & dimidiam que iacent iux^{a} t'ram W. Ruffegray v'sus Pulbringg' ad statuend' Hospit' in honorem dei & b'e t'nitatis, ad suscipiendu' paup'es debiles peregree proficiscentes p' salute ai'e Ric'i Wynton' Ep'i nati apud Sok, & pro salute ai'e p'ris & m'ris eius & antecessor' eius & o'um s' consang'nitate

p'tine'cium, & p' salute ai'e Herb'ti Sar' Ep'i & p'ris & m'ris eius & an'cessor' eius & o'um s' consang'nitate p'tinenciu' & p' salute ai'e Ric'i Sar' Ep'i & p'ris & m'ris eius & an'cessor' eius & o'um s' consang'nitate p'tinenc' & p' salute ai'e Jocelini Bath' Ep'i & p'ris & m'ris eius & an'cessor' eius & o'um s' consang'nitate p'tinenciu' & p' salute Ade de Iuelcestr' decani Sar' & p'ris & m'ris eius & antecessor' eius & o'um s' consang'nitate p'tinenciu', & pro salute ai'e mee & p'ris & m'ris mee & antecessor' meor' & o'um michi consang'nitate p'tinenciu', & p' salute ai'e Emme vx'is mee & p'ris & m'ris eius & an'cessor' eius & o'um s' consang'nitate p'tinenciu', & p' salute o'um eor' q' elemosinas suas ad p'd'ci Hospital' emendaco'm & sustentaco'em mis'icordit' contulerint. Hoc ecia' adicio qd Ego & he'des mei custodes iam d'ci Hospit' d'no Bathon' Ep'o In cui' p'tecc'one Hospitale est p'sentabim', Et si ita contig'it qd custos eiusd'm Hospit' eid'm Hospit' no' fu'it necessarius, Ego & he'des mei tantu', & nullus alius ip'm remouebim', & aliu' quem viderim' expedire p' prudentu' viror' co'siliu' ibid'm s'bstituem'. Ego v° & he'des mei in no'ie d'ni om's t'ras p'noi'atas deo & hospit' p'd'co con^a om's ho'ies warantizabimus. Et vt h' mea donacio rata p'maneat & inpost'um stabilis p'scu'et, p'sentem cartam sigilli mei apposic'one roboraui, Hiis testibus d'no Steph'o Cant'. Archiep'o, Hugone Lync' Ep'o Jocelino Bathon' Ep'o Ric'o Sar' Ep'o Ada de Iuelcestr' Sar' decano Galfrido Archid'o de Berkshire Joh'ne Capell'o d'ni Ric'i Sar' Ep'i Mag'ro Luca Sar' cano'ico Hugone Malet Gilb'to Daco, Ric'o Daco, Ric'o Pauncefot, & Ric'o filio eius, Ric'o de Clyuedon', Barth'o de Kemessing' & multis alijs.

No. II.

[Reg. Drok. fol. lviij.]

L're Abb'is de Cernel sup' ratificaco'e d'ce approp'aco'is. Dat' p' cop' Om'ibz xp'i fidelib' ad q°s p'sens sc'ptu' p'uen'it. W. d'ina p'miss'one. Abb' Cernel & eiusd'm loci Co'uentus sal'm in d'no L'ras n'ras patent' direxim' ven'ab' p'ri. J. dei gr'a Bathon' Ep'o in h' v'ba Reu'endo d'no & p'ri in Xp'o K'mo. J. dei gr'a Bathon' Ep'o. W. di'na p'missone Abb' Cernel & eiusd'm loci co'uent' sal'm & deuotam in d'no reu'enciam. Nou'itis nos ratam & gratam

h'ituros inp'petuu' ordinaco'em qua' fec'itis sup' aduocaco'e' eccl'ie b'e mar' minoris de Iuelcestr' & b'nficio annuo quod de ead'm ecc'ia p'cip'e solebam' In cui' Rei testimon' p'senti sc'pto sigilla n'ra apponi fecim' valeat pat'nitas v'ra semp' in d'no. Idem v° dn's Ep'us receptis p'd'cis l'ris n'ris de consilio viror' p'denciu' & iuris p'itor' eid'm assidenciu' ordinauit in hu'c modu', vid't qd pensione' illam annuam qua' de ead' eccl'ia p'cip'e co'sueuim' scil't duos solid' p'cipiam' tota vita Thome nu'c p'sone illius eccl'ie, & qd aduocac'o illius eccl'ie eid'm Ep'o & successoribz suis inp'petuu' remaneat, Ordinauit & q' post decessu' u'l cesso'em d'ci Thome p'cipiam' vna' m^arcam a'nuati' inf^a octab' Assu'pco'is b'e Mar' in domo Cernel de p'uentibz d'ce eccl'ie no'ie p'petui b'nficij p' manu' R'cor' illi' eccl'ie qui p' te'p'e fu'it, m^arcam aut' illam p'cipiem' absqz om'i on'e ordinario. Ad hanc aut' ordinaco'em faciendam induxit p'd'cm dn'm Ep'm ut dicebat sollicitudo & cura hospit' S'ci Joh'is Bapt'e de Iuelcestr' q^am gessit qd situ' est in p'ochia p'd'ce eccl'ie vt facilius & co'petenci' possit p'uidere q°modo i' capella p'd'ci hospit' possint inpost'um di'na celebrari. Nos itaqz p'd'cam ordinaco'em d'ci d'ni Ep'i p' nob' & successorib' n'ris p' o'ia ratam h'em' & g^atam In cui' rei Robur & testimon' p'senti' sc'pto sigilla n'ra apposuim'.

No. III.

[Reg. Drok. ff. lviij, lviijb.]

L'ra d'ni Jocelini Ep'i sup' ordinac'one sua d'ce ap'p'aco'is Dat' p' cop' Om'ibz ad quos p'sens sc'ptu' p'uen'it Jocelin' dei gr'a Bathon' Ep'us sal'm. L'ras patentes Abb'is & co'uent' de Cernell suscepim' in hec v'ba Reu'endo d'no & pat' in xp'o k'mo. J. dei gr'a Bath' Ep'o. W. di'na p'miss'one Abb' Cernell & eiusd'm loci co'uent' sal'm & deuotam i' d'no reu'enciam Nou'itis nos ratam & g^atam h'ituros inp'petuu' ordinaco'em quam fec'itis sup' aduocaco'e eccl'ie b'e Mar' minoris Iuelcestr' & b'nficio a'nuo quod de

ead'm eccl'ia p'cip'e solebam'. In cui' rei testimon' p'senti sc'pto sigilla n'ra apponi fecim' valeat pat'nitas v'ra semp' in d'no. Nos v° receptis d'cis l'ris cum q'dam loc' ad hospitalitatis vsum & paup'um suscepco'em inf^{a} p'ochiam d'ce eccl'ie in honore s'ce T'nitatis de consensu d'ni fundi sit auc^{a}te pontificali deputat' cu' cura & sollicitudo ex offic'o pastorali nob' incumbit considerantes paup'tate' & tenuitatem d'ci hospit' & def'cu' quem sustine't fr'es & sorores eiusd'm, qui rel'co sec'lo ad s'uiendu' deo & paup'ibus sub paup'tatis h'itu ibid'm conu'sionis & religionis h'itum assumpseru't Et qd p' di'nis celeb^{a}ndis & audiend' int' seculares p' vicos in scandalu' Religionis necesse h'ebant ad ip'am eccl'iam conc^{r}rere p'ochialem cu' in d'co hospit' no' nisi salua iusticia d'ce mat'cis eccl'ie pot'ant diuina celeb^{a}ri de consilio viror' prudentu' & iuris p'itor' de d'ca aduocac'one & ecc'ia tal'r ordinam' vid't q' hospitale p'd'cm & fratres eiusd'm h'eant aduocaco'em p'd'ce eccl'ie inp'p'm Indulgem' eciam eisd'm qd Thoma n'c R^{c}tore eiusd'm cedente v'l decedente lib'e valeant ex hac n'ra indulgencia d'cam eccl'iam in p'p'os vsus conu'tere & retin'e & ip'ius ingredi posso'em n'ro v'l successor' n'ror' assensu mi'me requisito Ita qd in cad'm p' ydoneu' capell'm faciant competent' p'petuo deseruiri Et qd extu'c solua't annuatim in Octab' Assu'pcionis b'e Mar' virg' apud Cernell Abb'i & monachis eiusd'm loci vnam m^{a}rcam annuam de fructibz eiusd'm eccl'ie no'ie p'petui b'nficij absqz om'i on'e ordinario p'd'co v° Thoma nu'c R^{c}tore eiusd'm d'cam eccl'iam possidente p'cipiant d'ci Abb' & Co'uent' de Cernell annuam penso'em duor' solidor' qua' inde p'us p'cip'e consueueru't ita qd d'ci f'res h'eant in d'co Hospit' Capellam sua' in qua faciant celeb^{a}ri di'na cu' pulsac'one campanar' & aliis sole'pnitatibz consuetis & necessariis in diuinor' celebrac'oe Et qd h'eant cimit'ium b'ndictu' inf^{a} septa sui Hospit' ad sepelliendu' f'res suos & sorores & alios qui ibid'm dux'int sepulturam eligenda'. Salua semp' iusticia eccliar' p'ochialiu' illor' qui ibid'm eleg'int sepeliri. Hec aut' ordinam' salua nob' & successorib' n'ris eccl'iar' n'rar' & n'ra p' o'ia iur'dicc'one potestate & dignitate. Et saluo Archid'is loci iure Archidiaconali In Cui' les'ois recompensaco'em volum' & statuim' eisd'm Arch'is synodalia consueta annuatim

duplicari In cu' Rei testimon' p'senti sc'pto sigillu' n'rm apponi fecim' Dat' apud Woky die Conu'so'is S'ci Pauli Anno gr'e Milli'o ducentesimo Quadragesimo p'mo.

No. III.*

[Ped. Fin. Somerset. 2—20 Henry III., n. 57.]

Hec est final' concord' f'ca in Cur' d'ni Reg' ap'd West'm a die Pasch' in tres septim'. Anno Regni Reg' Henr' fil' Reg' Joh'is septimo. Cora' H. de Burgo tu'c capitali Justic'. Martino de Pateshill'. Rad'o Harang. Steph'o de Segªue. Thom' de Haiden. Rob'to de Lexinton'. Gaufr'o Le Sauuag' Justic'. Et aliis d'ni Reg' fidelibz tu'c ibi p'sentibz. Int' Emma' que fuit ux' Will'mi Daci petente'. & fr'em Walt'm de Clapton' custode' Hospital' s'ce Trinitatis de Iuecestr' tenente' de t'cia parte dece' acrar' t're. & qⁱndeci' acrar' prati & duor' molendinor' cu' p'tin' in Iuecestr'. Qªm t'cia' p'te' ip'a Emma clamabat e'e r'onabile' dote' sua' de lib'o tenem'to quod fuit p'd'ci Will'i qᵒnda' uiri sui in eade' uilla. Et vn' placitu' fuit int' eos in p'fata Cur'. Scl't q'd p'd'cs Frater Walt' recognouit tota' t'cia' p'te' p'd'ce t're & pªti & molendinor' cu' p'tin'. e'e dotem ip'ius Emme. Et p' hac Recognico'e. fine & concord'. eade' Emma co'cessit ip'i fr'i Walt'o *ande' t'cia' p'te' p'd'ce t're & pªti & p'd'cor' molendinor' cu' p'tin'. Habenda' & tenenda' eide' fr'i Walt'o & successoribz suis & p'd'co domui Hospital' de p'd'ca Emma qªdiu uix'it. Reddendo inde annuati' una' marc' arg'nti ad duos t'minos anni. Scl't medietate' ad Pasch'. & aliam medietate' ad festu' s'ci Mich'is p' om'i s'uic'o. Et si forte co'tig'it q'd Ide' frat' Walt' u'l success' sui no' reddid'int p'd'cam marc' ad p'd'cos t'minos sicut p'd'cm est. Licebit ip'i Emme distring'e eos p' catall' in p'd'cis t'ra & pªto. & p'd'cis molendinis inuenta. usqz ad plena' solucione' ei'de' marcc. Sum'set.

No. IV.

[Esc. 9 Edw. I. n. 79.]

Inquisic'o f'ca p' sac^{a}mentu' Ade de Kary Will'i Tessun Will'i Cot Thom' de Parays Joh'is de Loueny Gilb'ti de Taunton Pet' Le Rus Nich'i de Tyntenhull Will'i Sclaume Will'i ffoffard Galfr' de Tyntenhulle & Regin' de Kary qui dicunt sup' sac^{a}mentu' suu' q'd vnu' mesuagiu' in villa de Iuelcestr' tenetur de Com' Cornubie p' s'uiciu' vnius quadrantis p' annu' p' om'i s'uicio. Et idem Comes est capitalis d'ns illius mesuag' & aliud mesuagiu' tenetur de eodem Com' p' s'uiciu' vnius oboli p' annu' p' om'i s'uic'o. Reddendo inde Rog'o de Moles duodeci' denar' p' annu' tantu' sine alio s'uicio inde recipiendo. Et dicu't q'd no' est ad dampnu' d'ci Com' si Cecilia Bagge & Rob'us filius eius concedere't u'l feofarent Priorissam & moniales de la Blaunchesale de Iuelcestr' co q'd consuetudines & s'uicia debita de p'd'cis mesuag' d'cus Comes debet recipere annuati' p' manus tenenciu' d'cor' mesuagior'. It'm dicu't q'd q^{a}tuor acre terre tenentur de Johanne Shurek de Cilt'ne p' s'uiciu' vnius denar' p' annu' p' om'ibus s'uic' de feudo Joh'is de monte acuto q' tenetur de d'no Rege in capite p' baronia'. Et vna ac^{a} terre & dimidia tenentur de Hugo'e Hereward p' s'uiciu' vnius denar' p' annu'. Et vna ac^{a} & dimidia tenentur de Adam Haghene p' s'uiciu' vnius Rose p' annu'. Et vna ac^{a} terre tenetur de Thom' Bagge p' s'uiciu' vnius oboli p' annu' & sunt de feudo Com' Marescall' p' iiij^{d} de Sturgoyl. Et due acre p^{a}ti & dimidia tenentur de h'edibz Will'i Le Deneys qui tene't in capite de d'no Rege p' s'uiciu' duodecim denar' p' annu'. Et dicu't q'd no' est ad dampnu' d'ni Regis si p'd'ca Priorissa & moniales essent feofati de p'd'cis tenem'tis. Et dicu't q'd no' est ad dampnu' d'nor' feudi p' annu' si inde feofati e'ent eo q'd nichil in p'd'cis tenem'tis eis accider' possit nisi tantu' p' Escaetam si euen'it u'l releuiu' & si escaeta euenerit tu'c e'et ad dampnu' d'nor' feudi de qualibet ac^{a} t're p' annu' vj. den'. Et de duabz acr' p^{a}ti & dimid' vj. d. tantu' p' annu'.

No. V.

[A Deed in the possession of the Author.]

Sciant p'sentes. & futri quod Ego. Henric' de Rocheford filius Eudon' de Estwode. dedi. concessi. & hac p'senti carta mea p' me. & heredibus meis siue assingatis meis confirmaui. Henrico de Broke. Nich'e vxor' sue. & eor' heredibz. tres acras. t're arabil' que vocantr Litlemede. & Iacent int' t'ra' Henr'. de Broke que vocatr Brudenewere exp'te austali. & viam que vocatr la Morstrete exp'te Borial'. Et septe' acas pati que Iacent int' cult'am que d'r le Castel exp'te borial' d'ci pati. & patu' Priorasse albe aule de Yuelcestr' exp'te austral'. quas quide' acras t're arabil' & patu' p'no'iatu'. Will's Ruffege aliqando de me tenuit ad firmam. Habend'. & tenend' d'cas tes acras t're arabil'. & septe' acras pati p'notatas. de me & heredibz. siue assingat' meis. D'co Henr * * * * om'imoda excepc'oe postpo'ita. lib'e. quiete. integre. bene. & in pace Jure hereditario inp'petuu'. Reddend' inde annuatim. seped'ci. Henr'. Nich' & eor' hered' Communi ville de Yuelcestr'. sexdecim. denarios. a la Hockeday p' om'ibz s'uiciis. sect'. querelis. & secularibz demandis. & p' om'ibz aliis euentibz que sup' d'cam t'ram aliquo temp'e co'ting'e pot'unt. Hec autem om'ia p'missa. cu' om'ibz iuris & lib'tatibz p'tactis Ego p'no'iat' Henr' de Rogeford. & hered. siue assingati mei. D'co Henr'. de Broke. Nich'e vx' sue & eor'd'm heredibz contas om'es mortales p' p'd'cm Redditu' Ware'tizabimus. acquietabim'. & defendem' inp'petuu'. P' hac aute' donac'oe. concessione. p'sentis carte confirmaco'e & Warentizaco'e. dederu't p'd'ci Henr'. de Broke. et Nich' vx' ei'd'm. anted'co Henr'. de Rocheford. viginti. qatuor. macas. & dimidiam. argent' p' manibz. Vt g' hec mea donac'o. concessio. carte mee confirmac'o. & Ware'tizac'o rata. & inconcussa temp'e p'petuo p'seueret. p'sente' cartam sigilli mei inpessio'e roboraui. Hiis testibus. D'nis. Will'o. de Giuelton'. Andr'. de Putford. militibz. Thom.' de Hengleby. Joh'e. Herod. Joh'e. Pol. Henr'. de Spekinton.' Joh'e. de aula de monte acuto. Joh'e. de Broke. Rob'to. de Bradeford. Et Aliis.

Endorsed: C. Henr' Rocheforde f'ca Henr' de Brok de iij. acr' t're. vocat' Lytelmede.

No. VI.

[Reg. Drok. fol. lxxxxviijb].

L'ra dir^{c}ta d'no Archiep'o Cant' p' sororibz Albe Aule Yuelcestr'

Reu'endo in xp'o Pat' d'no W. dei g'ra Cant' Archiep'o toti' Angl' p'mati. Joh'nes p'm' eiusd' Bath' &c. salt'm &c. Quia sorores Albe Aule Yuelcestr' n're dioc', in obp'briu' reg'le sue & Religionis, p' Alic' atte Zerde que se dicit inibi Priorissam a domo sua p'd'ca expulse, coguntr indies mendicare, ob quam c'am ad nos accedentes, s' s'r p'missis, remediu' postulant importune lac'mosis suspiriis adhiberi. Nos v° lite s'r hoc in v'ra Cur' pendente manus ligatas obtinentes, affectantes qz q'd d'cis mis'abilibz p' vos in hac parte g^{a}ciose valeat s'bveniri, reu'end' pat'nitatem v'ram sed'lo dep'cam' q^{a}tin' sororibz p'fatis victu' nc^{a}cm & pacificu' de suo p'p'io in domo p'notata lite in Cur' v'ra ut p'mittitr pendente, benigne dignem'i si placeat p'uidere. Eccl'ie sue s'ce regimini &c. Sc'pt' apud Kyngesbur'. Non' Septembr'. a°. m°. ccc^{mo}. xvj°.

No. VII.

[Reg. Drok. fol. ccxv.]

Co'missio p' custod' dom' Albe Aule Ienelc.

J. p'mission' &c. Dil'cis in xp'o filiis. D'no Henr' de Birlaunde Rectori eccl'ie de Stok n're dioc' p'sbit'o. & Joh'i de Herminull sal'm gr'am & ben'. Quia ex lac'mosa querela paup'u' religiosar' soror' dom' Albe Aule Yeuelcestr' n're dioc' ac fama puplic' referente, ad aures n'ras p'uenit. q'd soror' Alic' de Chitt'ne (*sic*) que se dicit P'orissam d'ce dom' de Joh'ne de Passelewe Capell'o, sup' inco'tinencie vicio extitit puplice diffamata. bona qz & res sac^{a}s p'd'ce Albe Aule p'p'ia tem'itate distraxit nequit' & co'sumpsit ac co'sumit in dies intantu' q'd d'ce sorores sue ip'i' dom' & in ea x° famulantes p' defectu sustentac'onis compelluntr q'd dolentr referim' miserabil'r mendicare. Sup' q'bz ex offi'o n'ro inq'ri fecim' diligent' p' qua' inq'sic'om comp'tu' extitit q'd d'ca soror Alicia no'iata P'orissa vt p'tangit' diffamata de s'uicio diuino cui ex religione sua e' dedita no' cura's sorores suas deo dicatas contempnit. eis qz sustentaco'm om'iodem subt^{a}xit & subt^{a}hit cui' occ'one alique

sorores ipi' dom' fame vt dicit^{r} p'ieru't p'fata qz bona & res in vsus illicitos conu'tit & ea dissipat vt p'd'r tem'e & consumit in g^{a}ue ai'e sue p'icl'm d'car' soror' suar' & dom' p'iudiciu' ac dampnu' no' modicu' & scandalu' pli'or'. Nos ig^{r} indigencie & paup'tati dictar' soror' pie co'pacientes effectu p'missa & alia p'icl'm ai'e d'ce P'orisse co'cerne'cia p' statu d'ce dom' & soror' ip'ius releuando eid'm P'orisse opponi fecim' sine mora ip'aqz demu' P'orissa tamq^{a} conscia s' de p'missis se ac statu' suu' & d'ce dom' ordinaco'i n're. ac laudo & decreto in p'sencia notarij publici alte & basse submisit. Cum itaq' mandatis regiis ex^{a} n'ram diocesim p' variis negoc' nos oporteat London' n'ram p'senciam exhib'e ordinacio'i stat' d'ce P'orisse & soror' ac d'ce dom' vsqz ad redditu' n'rm sic^{t} co'uenit & ad nos p'tinet ex officio intender' nequeam'. de v'ra fidelitate & indust'a confidentes vob' custodiam d'ce Priorisse ac soror' & dom' p'd'ce, rer' qz ad eand'm domu' p'tinenciu' co'mittim' p' p'sentes. sic^{t} nob' de custodia hi' & minist^{a}c'one p' vos ibid'm fac' voluerit' responder'. Iniu'gentes vob' firmit' quatin' d'ce P'orisse & sororib' vict'm nc^{a}cia' iux^{a} facultates domus & ipi' consuetudine' studeatis fid'l'r ministrar' & disp'sa p' ip'am P'orissam quaten' melius pot'itis co'gregare donec ad n'ram diocesim redierim' & iux^{a} iuris exigencia' alit' ordinau'im' de p'missis. Contrad^{c}tores & rebelles p' quascu'qz censuras eccl'iasticas co'pescendi. vob' d'no Henrico R^{c}tori sup^{a}d'co tenore p'senciu' co'mittim' potestate'. Dat' apud Dogm'esfeld. xiiij^{o} Kal'n Octobr' anno. d'ni mill'o. CCC^{mo} vicesimo t'cio. Et cons' n're qui'to decimo.

No. VIII.

[Pat. 17 Edw. II. p. 2. m. 6, dors.]

P' Priorissa de Alba Aula de Yeuelcestr'.

R' dil'cis & fidelib' suis Joh'i de Stonore Rad'o de Bereford & Elie de Godelegh salt'm Ex g^{a}ui querela dil'ce nob' in xp'o Priorisse de Alba Aula de Yeuelcestr' accepim' q'd Nich'us de Boleuille Joh'es de Harminulle Joh'es fil' Petri de Draycote Joh'es le Do Nich'us de Sok Will's Baller & Nich'us le Deyer & Agnes vx' eius, vna cu' quibusdam aliis malef'toribz & pacis n're p'turbacoribz clausum ip'ius Priorisse sub p'teccoe n'ra existentis apud Yeuelcestr' vi & armis intrauerunt & ostia grangiar' suar'

ibidem fregerunt & blada sua in eisdem grangiis tunc inuenta ad valencia' centu' marcar' triturarunt ceperunt & asportauerunt p' q'd t're p'd'ce Priorisse ibidem frisce & non seminate remanserunt, ac herba' in p^{a}to ip'ius Priorisse ibidem nup' crescente' ad valencia' decem librar' cum quibzda' aueriis depasti fuerunt conculcauerunt & consu'pserunt & alia enormia ei intulerunt in n'ri contemptu' & ip'ius Priorisse graue dampnu' & contra p'tecco'em n'ram p'd'cam & contra pacem n'ram Et quia t^{a}nsgressione' illam si talit' p'petrata fu'it relinquere nolum' impunitam assignauim' vos & duos vr'm Justic' n'ros ad inquirend' p' sacr'm p'bor' & leg' hom' de Com' Som's' p' quos &c. de acco'ibz malef'cor' p'd'cor' qui vna cu' p'fatis Nich'o Joh'e &c. t^{a}nsgresione' illam p'petrarunt & de t^{a}nsgressione illa pleni' veritatem & ad eandem t^{a}nsgressione' audiend' & t'minand' sc'dm lege' &c. Et ideo vob' mandam' q'd ad c'tos dies & loca quos vos vel duo v'rm ad hoc p'uideritis inquisico'em illa' fac' & t^{a}nsgressione' p'd'cam audiatis & t'minetis in forma p'd'ca ffc'm &c. Saluis &c. Mandauim' c'm vic' nr'o Com' pd'ci q'd ad c'tos dies & loca quos vos vel duo v'rm ei scire fac' venire fac' cora' vob' vel duob' v'rm tot &c. P quos &c. In cui' &c. T. R. apud Tonebrigge xxvj die Junij P. ip'm R'

No. IX.

[Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 26.]

Om'ibz Xp'i fidelibz ad quos p'sens sc'ptu' p'ven'it Joh'nes Cole de Bruggewater Salt'm in D'no Nou'itis me tradidisse & concessisse Walt'o Blaunkpayn & Juliane uxori sue sorori mee unu' Burgagiu' cu' parvo curtilagio que scita sunt in regio vico de Yevelcestre ex oppo'ito Eccl'ie B'e Marie int' burgagiu' q'd fuit Joh'is Draycote & burgagiu' Marie Priorisse de la Nywehalle Habend' & tenend' totu' p'd'cm burgagiu' cu' p'tin' p'd'cis Walt'o et Juliane uxori sue ad totam vitam eor' et alt'ius eor' diuci' viventis de me & heredibz meis Reddendo inde annuatim michi & heredibz unam rosam ad Festu' Nativitatis S'ci Joh'is Bapt'e Faciendo eciam p' me & heredibz meis om'ia reddit' & servicia inde debita & de jure D'no Regi seu quibuscumqz consueta p' om'ibz serviciis sectis heriettis & quibuscumqz secular' demandis Et ego p'd'cus Joh'nes

Cole et heredes mei totu' p'd'cm burgagiu' & curtilagiu' cu' p'tin' p'd'cis Walt'o & Juliane uxori sue ad totam vitam eor' & alt'ius eor' diuci' viventis cont^{a} om'es mortales in p'sert' Warantizabim' acquietabim' & defendem' In cuj' rei testimoniu' huic p'senti sc'pto Indentato sigilla n'ra alt'natim sunt appensa Hiis testibz Rob'to Pryvyere Joh'ne Rypon Walt'o Ffletchere Joh'ne atte Wille Joh'ne Vysshere Will'mo Wynsam & multis alijs Dat' ap'd Yevelchestre die Veneris p'x^{a} post Festu' Pentecost', Anno regni Regis Edwardi t'cij post conquestu' Quadragesimo Quarto.

No. X.

[Inq. ad q.d. 3 Hen. V. n. 14.]

Henricus dei gr'a Rex Angl' & ffranc' & D'ns hib'n'. Escaetori suo in Com' Som's' salt'm. Precepim' tibi q'd p' sacr'm p'bor' & leg' hom' de balliua tua p' quos rei v'itas melius sciri pot'it diligent' inquiras si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' si concedamus Joh'i Strech Rob'to Veel Will'o Gosse Will'o Neweton Tholomeo Dure & Joh'i Mascall q'd ip'i septem mesuagia vnu' gardinu' & decem acras t're cum p'tin' in Taunton & Shireford Ac p'dco Rob'to & Will'o Shourte q'd ip'i quinqz mesuagia & sex acras t're cum p'tin' in Yeuelchestre dare possint & assignare dil'cis nob' in xp'o priorisse & sororibz domus Albe Aule de Yeuelchestre h'end' & tenend' eisdem priorisse & sororibz & successoribz suis in auxiliu' sustentaco'is cuiusdam Capellani diuina singulis diebz ad su'm' altare in eccl'ia s'ce Trinitatis de Yeuelchestre p' a'iabz Johanne que fuit vx' Joh'is Stourton & Will'i Whittok ac a'iabz parentu' ip'or' Johanne & Will'i Whittok & a'iabz o'im fideliu' defunctor' celebratur' impp'm & ad anniu'saria ip'or' Johanne & Will'i Whittok singulis annis in die Jouis in septimana pasche in eccl'ia p'd'ca cum Placebo & Dirige in vigilia eiusdem diei cum missa de Requiem cum nota in eodem die ad altare p'd'cm tenend' obseruand' & solempnit' celebrand' impp'm necne. Et si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' tunc ad quod dampnu' & q'd p'iudiciu' nr'm & ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' alior' & quor' & qualit' & quo modo & de quo vel de quibz p'd'ca mesuagia gardinu' & t'ra teneant^{r} & p' quod s'uiciu'

& qualit' & quo modo et quantum p'd'ca mesuagia gardinu' & t'ra valeant p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz iuxta verum valorem eor'dem et qui & quot sunt medij int' nos et p'fatos Joh'em Rob'tum Will'm Will'm Tholomeu' Joh'em & Will'm de mesuagiis gardino & t'ra p'd'cis et que t're & que ten' eisdem Joh'i Rob'to Will'o Will'o Tholomeo Joh'i & Will'o remaneant vlt^{a} donaco'em & assignaco'em p'dcas & vbi & de quo vel de quibz teneant^{r} & p' quod s'uiciu' & qualit' & quo modo et quantum valeant p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz et si t're & ten' eisdem Joh'i Rob'to Will'o Will'o Tholomeo Joh'i & Will'o remanencia vlt^{a} donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas sufficiant ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mesuagiis gardino & t'ra sic datis q^{a}m de aliis t'ris & ten' sibi retentis debita faciend' & ad om'ia alia on'a que sustinuerunt & sustinere consueuerunt vt in sectis visibz franci plegij auxiliis tallagiis vigiliis finibz redempco'ibz am'ciamentis contribuco'ibz & aliis quibuscumq' on'ibz em'gentibz sustinend' et q'd ijdem Joh'es Rob'tus Will's Will's Tholomeus Joh'es & Will's in assisis iuratis & aliis recognico'ibz quibuscumqz poni possint p'ut ante donacionem & assignaco'em p'd'cas poni consueuerunt. Ita q'd p'ria p' donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas ip'or' Joh'is Rob'ti Will'i Will'i Tholomei Joh'is & Will'i def'c'm magis solito non on'et^{r} seu g^{a}uet^{r} Et inquisico'em inde distincte & ap'te f'cam nob' in Cancellar' n'ram sub sigillo tuo & sigillis eor' p' quos f'ca fu'it sine dil'one mittas & hoc br'e. T' me ip'o apud West'm primo die Junij Anno. r. n. primo.

Inquis' capta apud Yeuelchestr' in Com' Som's' die ven'is p'x' post festu' quod dicit^{r} ad uinc'la Sc'i Petri anno regni Reg' Henrici qui'ti post conquestu' primo cora' Ric'o Stucle Escaet' d'ni Reg' in Com' p'd'co virtute br'is d'ni Regis eid'm Escaet' inde directi & huic Inquis' consut' p' sacr'ment' Will'i Ponton Will'i Gorewell Thome Gane Ed'i Dygher Will'i Rodebere Almaric' att' Wethy Joh'is Stert Joh'is Dolle Joh'is Bochell Roberti Petenyn Joh'is Pytte & Will'i Smyffamour qui dicunt sup' sacr'm eor' q'd non est ad dampnu' neq' p'iudiciu' d'ni Reg' nec alior' si dn's Rex concedat Joh'i Strecch Roberto Veel Will'mo Gosse Will'mo Neweton Tholomeo Dure & Joh'i Mascall' q'd ip'i septe' mesuag' vnu' gardinu' & dece' acras t're cu' p'tin' in Taunton' & Shireford ac p'd'co Roberto & Will'mo

Shourte q'd ip'i qui'que mesuag' & sex acras t're cu' p'tin' in Yeuelchestr' dare possint & assignare Priorisse & Sororibz dom' albe aule de Yeuelchestr' h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & sororibz & successoribz suis in auxiliu' Sustentaco'is cuiusd^{a}m capellani diuina singul' diebz ad Su'mu' altare in eccl'ia Sc'e Trinitat' de Yeuelchestr' p' ai'abz Joh'ne que fuit vx' Joh'is Stourton & Will'i Whyttok ac ai'abz parentu' ip'or' Johanne & Will'i Whittok & ai'abz o'im fideliu' defunctor' celebraturi imp'petuu' & ad anniu'saria ip'or' Johanne & Will'i Whittok sing'lis annis in die Jouis in Septimana Pasche in eccl'ia p'dict' cu' placebo & Dirige in vigilia eiusdem diei cu' missa de requie' cu' nota in eod'm die ad altare p'd'cm ten'd' obseruand' & solempnit' celebrand' imp'petuu' Et dicunt q'd p'dicta septe' mesuag' gardinu' & dece' acre t're cu' p'tin' in Taunton' & Shireford tenent^{r} de Ep'o Winton' vt de manerio suo de Taunton' in socagio p' s'uiciu reddend' eid'm Ep'o xij^{s} & x^{d} ad quatuor anni t'minos p'ncipales equis porc'onibz & faciend' secta' curie eiusdem Ep'i ad duos legales dies videl't hokkediei & Mich'is annuati' apud Taunton' p'd'cam tenend' p' om'ibz alijs s'uicijs et valent p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz iuxta veru' valore' eor'd'm vlt^{a} repris' quadraginta sex solidos & dece' denarios Et q'd nullus est medius int' dn'm Rege' & p'fatos Joh'nem Robertu' Will'm Will'm Tholomeu' & Joh'nem de p'd'cis mes' gardino & terra in Taunton' & Shireford nisi solomodo p'd'cus Ep'us Et dicunt q'd p'd'ca qui'que mesuag' & sex acre t're cu' p'tin' in Yeuelchestr' tenent^{r} de d'no Rege in socagio & p' s'uiciu' reddend' eid'm d'no Regi ad firma' sua' in villa de Yeuelchestr' p' soluend' annuati' octo denarios in festo sc'i Mich'is Arch'i & faciend' secta' cur' eiusd'm d'ni Regis in villa de Yeuelchestr' p'd'ca annuati' ad duos legales dies p' om'ibz alijs s'uicijs Et valent p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz iuxta veru' valore' eor'd'm p' annu' xxij^{s} vj^{d} Et q'd nullus est medius int' dn'm Rege' & p'fatos Robertu' & Will'm Shourte de mesuag' & terra p'dict' in villa de Yeuelchestr' p'd'ca Et dicunt q'd maneriu' de Radewell' cu' p'tin' quod tenet^{r} de Ep'o Bathon' p' s'uiciu' militare & valet p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz xx^{li} p'd'co Joh'i Strech duo mes' Centu' acre t're cu' p'tin' in Shepton' Beauchamp' que tenent^{r} de Roberto Seymour p' s'uiciu' militare que valent p' annu' xv^{s}. Quatuor mes' cu' p'tin'

in Bryggewater que tenent^r de d'no de la Souche in socagio que valent p' annu' xl.^s· p'd'co Will'mo Gosse duo mes' cu' p'tin' in Yeuelchestr' que tenent^r de d'no Rege in Socagio que valent p' annu' xx^s p'd'co Will'mo Neweton' vnu' mes' viginti acre t're cu' p'tin' in Wollavyngton' que tenent^r de Joh'ne Tochet p' s'uiciu' militare que val' p' annu' xx^s p'd'co Tholomeo vnu' mesuag' sexaginta acre t're cu' p'tin' in Stapulton' que tenent^r de Will'mo Bonevile p' s'uiciu' reddend' eid'm Will'mo x^s p' annu' p' om'ibz s'uicijs que valent p' annu' xl.^s· p'd'co Joh'i Mascall' & vnu' mes' sexaginta acre t're cu' p'tin' in Mertok que tenent^r de Duce Clarancie p' s'uiciu' reddend' eid'm Duci v.^s p' annu' que valent p' annu'. lx^s· p'fato Will'mo Shourte remanent vlt^a donac'onem & assignaco'em p'd'cas que t're & ten'ta eisd'm Joh'i Roberto Will'mo Will'mo Tholomeo Joh'i & Will'mo remanencia vlt^a donac'onem & assignaco'em p'd'cas sufficiunt ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mes' gardino & t'ra sic datis q^am de alijs t'ris & ten'tis sic sibi retentis debita faciend' & ad om'ia alia on'a que sustinuerunt & sustiner' consueuerunt aut debuerunt vt in sectis visibz franci plegij auxilijs tallagijs vigilijs finibz redempco'ibz am'ciament' contribuco'ibz & alijs quibuscumqz oneribz em'gentibz sustinend' et q'd ijd'm Joh'es Robertus Will's Will's Tholomeus Joh'es & Will's in assisis iuratis & alijs recognico'ibz quibuscumqz poni possint p'ut ante donac'onem & assignaco'em p'd'cas poni consueuerunt Ita q'd p'ria p' donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas in ip'or' Joh'is Roberti Will'i Will'i Tholomei Joh'is & Will'i def't'm magis solito non on'at^r nec on'abit^r nec grauat^r seu g^auabit^r In cui' rei testi'om p'd'ci Jurat' sigilla sua p'sentibz apposuerunt Dat' die anno & loco p'd'cis.

No. XI.

[Pat. 3 Hen. V. p. 2. m. 27.]

D' licencia dandi ad manu' mortuam

R' Om'ibz ad quos &c. salt'm. Licet &c. de gr'a tamen n'ra sp'ali & p' viginti libris quas dil'ca nob' in xp'o Priorissa Albe Aule de Yeuelchestre nob' soluit in hanap'io

n'ro concessim' & licenciam dedim' p' nob' & heredibz n'ris quantum in nob' est Rob'to Veel & Will'o Shomte *(sic)* q'd ip'i quinqz mesuagia & sex acras t're cum p'tin' in Yeuelchestre in Com' Som's' que de nob' tenent^r^ in burgagio, Ac eidem Rob'to & Joh'i Strech Will'o Gosse Will'o Neweton' Tholomeo Dure & Joh'i Mascall q'd ip'i septem mesuagia vnu' gardinu' & decem acras t're cum p'tin' in Taunton' & Shireford in Com' p'd'co que de nob' non tenent^r^ in capite dare possint & assignare eidem Priorisse & sororibz eiusdem domus h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & sororibz & successoribz suis in auxiliu' sustentaco'is cuiusdam Capellani diuina singulis diebz ad su'mum altare in eccl'ia sc'e Trinitatis de Yeuelchestre p' ai'abz Johanne que fuit vx' Joh'is Stourton' & Will'i Whittok & Agnetis vx'is eius ac ai'abz parentum ip'or' Johanne Will'i Whittok & Agnetis & ai'abz o'im fideliu' defunctor' celebratur' imp'p'm et ad anniu'saria ip'or' Johanne Will'i Whittok & Agnetis singulis annis in die Jouis in septimana Pasche in eccl'ia p'd'ca cum placebo & dirige in vigilia eiusdem diei cum missa de Requiem cum nota in eodem die ad altare p'd'cm tenend' obseruand' & solempnit' celebrand' imp'p'm Et eisdem Priorisse & sororibz q'd ip'e mesuagia gardinu' & t'ram p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fatis Rob'to Will'o Joh'e Will'o Will'o Tholomeo & Joh'e recip'e possint & tenere sibi & successoribz suis p'd'cis in forma p'd'ca sicut p'd'cm est imp'p'm tenore p'senciu' similit' licencia' dedim' sp'alem. Statuto p'd'co seu eo q'd p'd'ca mesuagia & t'ra in p'd'ca villa de Yeuelchestre de nob' tenent^r^ in burgagio vt p'd'cm est non obstant' Nolentes q'd p'd'ci Rob'tus Will's Joh'es Will's Will's Tholomeus & Joh'es vel heredes sui aut p'fate Priorissa & sorores vel successores sue r'one statuti p'd'ci aut alior' p'missor' p' nos vel heredes n'ros Justic' Escaetores vicecomites aut alios balliuos seu ministros n'ros vel heredum n'ror' quoscumqz impetant^r^ inquietent^r^ molestent^r^ in aliquo seu g^a^uent^r^. Saluis nob' & heredibz n'ris ac aliis Capitalibz d'nis feodi illius s'uiciis inde debitis & consuetis. In cuius &c. T R apud Westm' xxiiij die Marcij.

No. XII.

[Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 11—98.]

Nou'int uniu'si p' p'sentes nos Cristinam Priorissam Albe Aule de Yeuelchestre & Johannam Whyttokes monialem & consororem eiusdem Priorisse Joh'em Peny Thomam Drap'e Gilb'tum Bouche & Dauid Hawes attornasse & loco n'ro posuisse dilectu' nobis Joh'em Smythe de Northov'e ad lib'andu' p' nobis & no'ine n'ro Rob'to Veel Ric'o Serle & Joh'i Glainvill' plenam & pacificam seisinam in & de o'ibus t'ris & ten'tis que nup' fuerunt Marci Whyttok in Northov'e & Somerton' Dat' die Martis p'x' post F'm Sc'i Mich'is Archang'li Anno regni regis Henr' sexti post conquestu' Sc'do.

No. XIII.

[Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 12—99.]

Sciant p'sentes & futuri q'd nos Cristina Priorissa Albe Aule de Yeuelchestr' & Johanna Whyttokes monialis & consoror eiusdem Priorisse Joh'es Peny Thom's Drap'e Gilb'tum *(sic)* Bouch & David Hawes dimisim' concessim' & p'senti scripto n'ro confirmavim' Rob'to Veel Ric'o Serle & Joh'i Glainvill' om'ia t'ras & ten' cum p'tin' que nup' fuerunt Marci Whyttok in Northov'e & Som'ton' H'end' & tenend' eisd'm Rob'to Ric'o & Joh'i Glainvill' heredibz & assign' suis de Capit'libz D'nis feodor' illor' p' s'vicia inde debita & de jure consueta imp'petuu' In cui' rei testiom' sigilla n'ra p'sentibz apposuim' Hiis testibz Nich'o Moleyns Joh'e Welweton' Jun'. Joh'e Smyth' de Northov'e Ric'o Dole & alijs Dat' die Martis p'x' post F'm Sc'i Mich'is Archang'li Anno regni Regis Henr' sexti post conquestum Sc'do.

No. XIV.

[MS. Harl. 701. ff. 18, 19.]

Reddit' Capell' p'dict' cu' dom' maner' eiusd'm et gardin' adiacen' p' annu'	x^{s}
Reddit' vnius cl'i pastur' vocat' hichins cont' xx acr' dimiss' Ric'o Beton et al' p' termino vite p' Inden' per annu'	lx^{s}

Redd' vnius cl'i pastur' vocat' v. acres dimiss' Joh'ni Sampson et alijs per Inden' p' ter'i'o vite per annu'	v^{s}
Reddit' vnius Ten'ti cu' iij acr' terr' arr' et vn' acr' prati in Sockem'she ac quinte p't' vnius cl'i pastur' vocat' newmede, ac iij acr' prati de Sockem'she de d'nic' d'ni dimiss' Joh'ni Whettell et al' per inden' pro termino vite p' Annu'	xiiij^{s} viij^{d}
Reddit' vnius Ten'ti cu' xiij acr' terr' iuxta le Spittell et iij acr' prat' quaru' duar' acr' iacen' iux^{a} le Cawsey et al' acr' iuxta le Spettill ac vn' claus' pastur' contin' vij acr' iacen' iux^{a} Mille in Ilchester dimiss' Thome Bloughton et al' p' Indentur' pro termino vite ..	xxxiiij^{s} viij^{d}
Reddit' vnius Ten'ti in burgo de Ilchester cu' vno acr' terr' in coleplate in Campo de Lymmyngton et vn' acr' terr' iacen' in worthehill ac vn' acr' terr' iux^{a} newe close vn' acr' p^{a}ti in newe mede et vn' acr' p^{a}t in Sockem'she et vn' Orrei cu' iiij acr' terr' arr' iux^{a} mowrewaie ac vn' domu' brasiat' in burgo de Ilchester cu' vn' acr' terr' arr' voc' Batteacre. Acetiam decem acr' pastur' iacen' ex^{a} le Bowe in burgo p'd' dimiss' Humfr'o Blowghton et al' per Indentur' pro termi'o vite p' annu'	lxij^{s} iiij^{d}
Reddit' vnius cl'i pasture vocat' corne spetill cont' p' est' x acr' dimiss' Joh'ni Belly et al' p' Inden' p' termi'o vite	xxvj^{s} viij^{d}

Capella de Whitehall

Val' in

Redd' vj Sestr' p^{a}ti qual't sestr' cont' vn' acr' et di' rod' in Ilchester modo dimiss' p'd' Joh'ni Bellie et al' p' copio'em p' annu'	xiiij^{s} vj^{d}
Reddit' vnius ten'ti et iij acr' terr' arr' ac vn' acr' p^{a}ti in Sockem'she, ij acr' et di' p^{a}t' in fotesmede et vn' acr' p^{a}ti in newmede, acetiam duar' p'uar' claus' voc' hempland' dimiss' Will'o Owyn et al' p' Inden' p' termino vite p' A'	xij^{s} vj^{d}
Reddit' vn' Ten'ti et iij acr' terr' et vn' acr' p^{a}ti ac quint' p't' vn' claus' pastur' vocat' newmede cu' iij acr' p^{a}t' in Sockem'she de d'nic' d'ni dimiss' Joh'ni Whegon et al' p' Indentur' pro termi'o vite p' annu'	xiiij^{s} viij^{d}
Reddit' vnius molendin' aquatic' granat' cu' vn' claus' vocat' le Milham in Ilchester dimiss' Will'o Berde et al' p' Indentur' pro termi'o vite p' Annu'	xl^{s}
Redd' vn' curtillag' cu' gardin' adiacen' iux^{a} le Shamell et viij acr' pastur' in Chilterne lease in p'och' de Chilterne domer dimiss' Thome Rodde et al' p' Indentur' pro termi'o vite	ix^{s} ij^{d}
Redd' vn' ten'ti cu' gardino et iij acr' terr' arr' vn' acr' p^{a}t' in Sockem'she, vn' acr' p^{a}t' in Newclose et ij acr' et di' prat' in fotesmede dimiss' Joh'ne Roper vid' p' annu'	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Redd' v acr' pastur' iacen' in cl'o vocat' Newclose in campo de Ilchester dimiss' Joh'ni Cuffe p' annu'	v^{s}

xix^{li} xiij^{s} vj^{d}
Inde in

	Reddit' triu' ten't' siue burgag' in Taunton et viij acr' prat' ib'm dimiss' Joh'ni Walferde per Annu'	xxxiij^{s} viij^{d}
	Redd' duoru' ten'tor' siue burgag' cu' gardin' in Taunton p'd' dimiss' Roberto Bowier al' Thompson per Annu'	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
	Reddit' duor' ten'tor' siue burgag' cum gardin' in Taunton p'd' dimiss' georgio Hamley p' annu'	xxiiij^{s}
Rep's in	Reddit' resolut' d'no Regi p' feod' firm' burg' de Ilchester p' annu'	xxv^{s} vj^{d} exting^{r}
	Redd' resol' eid'm d'no Regi p' sect' burg' s' de Ilchester p'd' annuati'	xij^{d} exting^{r}
	Reddit' resol' d'co d'no Regi annuati' pro Chilterne lease ..	vij^{d} exting^{r}
	Ffeod' Walter' Bragge Sen^{li} et Rec' ib'm p' l'ras paten' concess' p' ter'i'o vite s' p' annu'	xx^{s} Rex exon'abit
Et val' clare p' annu'		xix^{li} xiij^{s} vj^{d}

Memorand' that the mano^{r} of Ilchester aforesaid is the lorde marques Dorset'.

Ex^{r} p' Will'm Bourne deput' Will'i Morice ar' p'tic' sup'uis' d'ni R' com' p'd'.

(The remaining portion of the Document, which is in English, has already been given at page 61*).*

No. XV.

[Card. Pole's Pension Book, fol. xxxb.]

Penc. { Georgij Carewe clic' vlt incu'b lib' / Capell' Sc'e Trinit in Ilchester } vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

No. XVI.

[Pat. 42. Eliz. p. 19. mm. 1—11.]

Regina Om'ibz ad quos &c. salt'm. ———— Cumqz eciam nos p' al' l'ras n'ras paten' sub magno sigillo n'ro Angl' confect' geren' dat' quarto die Julij anno regni n'ri vicesimo nono Recitan' q'd cum nos p' l'ras n'ras paten' magno sigillo n'ro Angl' sigillat' geren' dat' apud Westm' decimo quinto die Januarij anno regni n'ri decimo sexto de gr'a n'ra sp'iali ac ex c'ta sciencia & mero motu n'ris t^{a}didissem' concessissem' & ad firmam dimisissem' nup' s'uien' n'ro Rad'o Hope adtunc defuncto totam illam lib'am Capellam n'ram vocat' Whitehall cum om'ibz suis iuribz membris & p'tin' vniu'sis in Com' n'ro Som's' Necnon om'ia & singula domos edificia mesuag' toft' Cottag' curtilag' molendin' terr' ten' prat' pastur' & al' p'fic' co'ias bosc' subbosc' reddit' reu'co'es s'uic' aquas stagnu aquar' cursus riuos &c. &c. scituat' iacen' & existen' &c. infra vill' paroch' hamlett' & campos de Ilcheston (*sic*) Northover Lymyngton & Taunton aut in ear' aliqua vel alibi in p'd'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'ce lib'e Capelle quoquo modo spectan' vel p'tinen' aut vt membr' part' vel parcell' eiusdem lib'e Capelle siue possessionu' eiusdem tunc antea dimiss' locat' vsitat' occupat' &c. Que om'ia & singula eadem p'miss' tunc vel tunc nup' fuerunt in tenura siue occupaco'e Thome Dewport vel assign' suor' ac parcell' terr' & possessionu' in manibz n'ris existen' r'one Actus Parliamenti tunc nuper edit' p' dissoluco'e Cantar' & al' h'mo'i in Com' p'd'co Ac om'ia & singula domos edificia &c. &c. quecunqz p'missis p'd'cis seu eor' alicui quoquo modo spectan' vel p'tinen' &c. p' reddit' sexdecem librar' & decem solid' in d'cis l'ris paten' reseruat' &c. Except' tamen semp' & nob' hered' & successoribz n'ris om'ino res'uatis om'ibz grossis arboribz que adtunc fuerunt marem' aut p' maremio adtunc reputabant^{r} ac om'ibz huiusmodi pulchris lez Sapling' quecun'

in p'dict' bosc' existen' que ad marem' crescen' magis apt' & idonee viderent^r Ac om'ibz ward' maritag' &c. &c. p'missis quoquo modo spectan' p'tinen' &c. H'endum & tenend' p'dict' lib'am Capellam ac cet'a eadem p'missa sup'ius in eisdem l'ris paten' recitat' cum suis iuribz membris &c. p'fato Rad'o Hope executoribz & assign' suis a tempore quo quedam Indentura & dimissio inde geren' dat' vicesimo octauo die Junij anno regni nup' p'charissimi P'ris n'ri Henrici octaui nup' Regis Angl' tricesimo septimo p' Georgiu' Carowe Cl'icum Archidiacon' & adtunc p'd'ce lib'e Capell' magr'm p'd'co Thome Dewport confect' p' t'mino quadraginta annor' a festo Annu'ciaco'is b'e Marie Virginis tunc vltimo p't'ito ante dat' eiusdem Indenture p' expiraco'em sursumreddico'em forisf'curam seu det'minaco'em inde aut aliquo alio modo tunc primo & p'x' vacari finiri seu det'minari conting'et vsqz ad finem t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti & vnius annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' Reddendo inde extunc an'uatim nob' hered' & successoribz n'ris sexdecem libras & decem solidos legal' monete Angl' p'ut p'easdem l'ras patentes int' diu'sas conuenco'es in eisdem sp'ificat' plenius liquebat & apparebat. Nos p' easdem l'ras n'ras paten' geren' dat' p'd'co quarto die Julij d'co anno regni n'ri vicesimo nono p' consideraco'ibz in eisdem l'ris paten' exp'ss' t^a did'im' concesserim' & ad firmam dimiserim' Gawino Phelips & Egidio ffathers totam illam p'd'cam nup' lib'am Capell' n'ram sc'e Trinitatis de Whitehall p'dict' ac totam ill' p'd'cam lib'am Capellam n'ram vocat' Whitehall cum om'ibz & singulis suis iur' membris & p'tin' vniu'sis in p'd'co Com' n'ro Som's' Necnon om'ia & singula domos edificia structur' horr' stabula hort' pomar' gardina &c. &c. d'ce lib'e Capelle quoquo modo spectan' vel p'tinen' Except' tamen semp' & ext^a eandem concessionem n'ram om'ino reseruatis quinqz acris pastur' cum p'tin' iacen' apud Yerdend tunc vel nup' in tenura siue occupaco'e Ric'i Sansan vel assign' suor' ac vna domo vocat' a Stable in Ilchester p'd'ca nup' in tenura Ric'i Cuffe vel assign' suor' ac vna domo vocat' Whitehall cum p'tin' ac' om'ibz illis quinqz acris terr' cum p'tin' in Ilchester p'dict' iacen' iuxta Tuckers lez que tunc nup' scil't t'cio die Aprilis anno regni n'ri decimo octauo fuerunt in tenura siue occupaco'e Joh'is Phillips vel assign' suor' ac p' l'ras n'ras paten' magno sigillo n'ro Anglie sigillat'

geren' dat' apud Gorhambury d'co t'cio die Aprilis d'co anno regni n'ri decimo octauo p'dilc'o & fideli Consiliar' n'ro Christofero Hatton militi p' nomen Dilc'i nob' Christoferi Hatton armig'i & hered' suis (int' alia) dat' & concess' attingen' ad an'ual' reddit' decem solidor' & duor' denarior' except' eciam p'ut in eisdem l'ris paten' excipiunt^{r}· h'end' & tenend' totam p'd'cam lib'am Capellam Sc'e Trinitatis de Whitehall ac p'd'cam nup' lib'am Capellam vocat' Whitehall ac om'ia p'dc'a terr' tenementa p^{a}ta pasc' pastur' &c. except' p'except p'fat' Gawino Phillips & Egidio ffathers executoribz & assign' suis a festo Annu'ciaco'is b'e Marie Virginis quod adtunc esset in anno d'ni mill'imo sexcentesimo sexto vsqz ad finem t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti & vnius annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' Reddendo inde extunc an'uatim nob' heredibz & successoribz n'ris quindecem libras nouemdecem solidos & decem denarios legal' monete Angl' p'ut p' easdem l'ras paten' plenius eciam liquet & apparet ——————————
Sciatis q'd nos p' & in consid'aco'e su'me quatuor mille octingentar' septuaginta triu' librar' vnius solidi octo denarior' legalis monete Angl' &c. p' Dilc'os subditos n'ros Mich'em Stanhope armig'um vnu' Gromett' priuate Cam'e n're & Edwardum Stanhope in legibz Doctorem ac vnu' mag'ror' Cancellar' n're ad vsum nr'm solut' &c. dedim' & concessim' ac p' p'sentes p' nob' heredib' & successoribz n'ris dam' & concedim' p'fat' Mich'i Stanhope & Edwardo Stanhope hered' & assign' suis totum illud maner' nr'm de Vpton in paroch' de Blewbery in Com' n'ro Berk'——————
—————— Rc'oriam & Eccl'iam n'ram de Wigenhall in Com' n'ro Norff' ——————medietatem decimar' &c. in Carleton Colvile in Com' n'ro Suff' —————— Hony Lane in Ciuitate n'ra London —————— Harden &c. in Com' Cestr' —————— Pendevy in Com' Cornub' ——
—————— Dedim' eciam & concessim' &c. ac p' p'sentes damus & concedim' p'fat' Mich'i Stanhope & Edwardo Stanhope, heredib' & assign' suis totam ill' lib'am Capellam n'ram vulgarit' vocat' Whitehall alias dict' lib'am Capellam Sc'e Trinitatis de Whitehall p'dict' cum om'ibz & singulis suis iuribz membris & p'tin' vniu'sis iacen' & existen' infra vill' paroch' siue hamlett' de Ilchester Northover Taunton & Lymyngton aut in eor' aliquo vel alibi in Com' n'ro Som's' eidem lib'e Capelle vulgarit' vocat' Whitehall p'dict'

spectan' siue p'tinen' p' particular' inde a'nual' reddit' siue valoris quindecem librar' nouemdecem solidor' decem denarior' parcell' possessionu' in manibz n'ris existen' virtute Actus Parliamenti p' dissoluco'e Cantariar' & al' huiusmodi nup' edit' & p'uis' —— Hucknall Torkerd, &c. in Com' Noting' —— Whitingstreete in Bury in Com' n'ro Suff' &c.——Aceciam om'ia & singula mesuagia molendina domos &c. &c. p'missis p'tinen' &c. adeo plene lib'e & integre &c. &c. ——Quequidem Capella S'ce Trinitatis de Whitehall p'dict & cet'a p'missa eidem Capelle p'tinen' p' particular' inde extenduntr ad clarum a'nuu' redditum siue valorem quindecem librar' nouemdecem solidor' decem denarior' p' Annu' —— except' tamen semp' & nob' heredibz &c. aduocaco'ibz donaco'ibz &c.———h'end' tenend' & gaudend' p'fat' Mich'i Stanhope & Edwardo Stanhope heredibz &c. ad solum & p'priu' opus & vsum &c. Tenend' ——— p'd'cam Capell' S'ce Trinitatis de Whitehall p'dict' &c. de nob' heredibz & success' n'ris vt de man'io n'ro de Eastgrenewich in Com' n'ro Kanc' p' fidelitatem tantum in lib'o & co'i socagio & non in Capite nec p' s'uiciu' militare p' om'ibz al' redditibz s'uicijs exacco'ibz & demand' quibuscunqz p'inde nob' heredibz vel successoribz n'ris quoquo modo reddend' soluend' seu faciend' ——— a festo sc'i Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'ito hucusqz p'uenien' siue crescen' h'end' eisdem Mich'i Stanhope & Edwardo Stanhope ex dono n'ro absqz Comp'o seu aliquo alio p'inde nob' heredibz vel successoribz n'ris quoquo modo reddend' soluend' vel faciend' —— Et de tempore in tempus exonerabim' &c. ab om'ibz & om'imod' corrod' reddit' feod' a'nuitat' penco'ibz porco'ibz quibuscunqz &c.———— Volum' eciam &c. absqz fine in hanap'io &c. —— In cuius rei &c. T R apud Westm' xxvij die Junij

p' br'e de priuato sigillo &c.

ADDITIONS.

Page 17.—A case of the Prioress of Iuelcestre against Stephen, son of Richard Kayllewey, of plea of assize of mort d'auncestor, was essoined at the assizes held at Puntinton, on Monday next after the feast of S. James the Apostle, 9 Edward I., the 28th of July, 1281, to Thursday next after the feast of S. Bartholomew, the 28th of the August following, at Somerton.*

Page 23.—Against one of the offenders the Prioress obtained at least a partial satisfaction, for at the assizes at Bath, before Henry Spigurnel and Richard de Rodeneye, on Thursday next after Easter three weeks, 14 Edward II., the 14th of May, 1321, Alice de Chilterne, Prioress of La Blaunche Sale of Yvelcestre, complained by her attorney against John, son of Peter de Draycote, of plea of trespass. He made no appearance, and a precept was issued to the Sheriff to levy a distress on the lands of the said John, and to pay the demand from the issues thereof, and further to bring the said John himself before the Justices at Somerton, on Monday, the morrow of S. Lucy, Virgin, the 14th of the following December.†

Page 27.—The case seems to have been one in which the law's delays were more than ordinarily instanced, for so

* Rot. Assis. 9 Edw. I., $\left.\begin{matrix} N \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 7. m. 15 dors.

† Rot. Assis. Somers. 14 Edw. II., $\left.\begin{matrix} M \\ 5 \\ 16 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 1. m. 19.

late as at the assizes, held at Cherde, on Wednesday next after the close of Easter, or Quasimodo Sunday, 19 Edward II., the 2nd of April, 1326, the Prioress complained against Nicholas de Boleville, chivaler, John de Herounville, John le Doo, Nicholas le Dyghere, and Agnes his wife, Nicholas de Sok, Thomas Cole, sen., Gilbert le Shephurde, of Somerton, Ralf Gydie, Robert de Sok, William le Cartere, of Sok, and William le Ballere, of plea of assize of novel disseisin. The case was adjourned to Monday next after the feast of S. James the Apostle, 20 Edward II., the 28th of August following, at Somerton, on which day the Prioress did not appear, and judgment went against her accordingly.*

Page 31.—The case between Prioress Cecily and her Sisters against Gilbert Passeware and Simona his wife is a most curious specimen of litigation, and deserves a more extended notice than that which I have given it. The question at issue was the validity of a certain deed of agreement, by which, as it was asserted by the plaintiffs, Simona Passeware was entitled to the benefit of a corrody, the particulars of which I have already given. The agreement referred to was as follows :—"To all to whom this present writing shall come, Cecily, Prioress of White Hall of Yevelcestre, and the Brethren and Sisters of the same House, health in the Lord. Know ye that we with unanimous assent and consent have given, granted, and by this present writing confirmed to Simon le Lyt a place within the close of our House of White Hall of Yvelcestre, to build in the same at the cost of the said Simon. We have also given, and by our present writing have confirmed to the aforesaid Simon a corrody of one Sister

*Rot. Assis. Somers. 19 & 20 Edw. II. $\left.\begin{matrix} M \\ 5 \\ 16 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 3. mm. 3, 10 dors.

in our House aforesaid, in food and clothing and in all other necessaries, as any Sister there has or has been wont to have, or for the rest of the time shall hap to obtain, in money or in eatables, habit and veils, with all things affecting them, and affecting in both ways the state of a Sister, or in secular clothes, to the true value at the will of the said Simon: to have and to hold for her whole life, of us and of our successors, freely, quietly, entirely, well, and in peace; for a certain sum of money which we have received from the said Simon. And we the aforesaid Cecily, and the Brethren and Sisters of our House of White Hall aforesaid, and our successors will warrant, acquit, and defend all the aforesaid place and superstructure, and all the aforesaid corrody in food and clothing with all things affecting them, as is aforesaid, to the said Simon for the whole of her life against all men. In witness whereof we have to this writing affixed our common seal."

My reader may be glad to have the text of this agreement. It ran thus:—

Vniu'sis ad quos p'sens scriptu' p'uen'it Cecilia Priorissa Albe Aule Yeuelcestr' & eiusdem dom' f'res & sorores salt'm in d'no Nou'itis nos vnamini assensu & consensu dedisse concessisse & hoc p'senti scripto confirmasse Simoni le Lyt vnam placeam infra clausum dom' n're Albe Aule Yuelcestr' ad edificand' in eadem sumptibz eiusdem Simonis. Dedim' eciam & p'senti scripto n'ro confirmauim' p'fate Simoni corrodiu' vnius sororis in domo n'ra p'd'ca in victu & vestitu & in om'ibz alijs necessar' tanq^{a}m quelibet soror' ibidem h'et aut h'ere consueuit vel de cet'o optinere contig'it in denar' v'l in cibarijs abitu & velis cu' om'ibz ea tangentibz statu' sororis vtrobiq' tangentibz vel in pannis secularibz ad verum valore' ad voluntatem eiusdem Simonis. habend' & tenend' ad tota' vitam suam de nob' & successoribz n'ris lib'e quiete integre bene & in pace. p' q^{a}dam su'ma pecunie quam ab eadem Simone recepim' Et nos vero p'd'ca Cecilia & fr'es & sorores dom' n're Albe Aule p'd'ce & successores n'ri totam p'd'cam

placeam & sup'edificatam & totu' p'd'cm corrodiu' in victu & vestitu cu' om'ibz ea tangentibz vt p'd'cm est, d'ce Simoni ad tota' vitam suam cont^{a} om'es mortales War' acquiet' & defendem' In cuius rei testimoniu' huic scripto sigillu' n'rm co'e apposuim'.*

The Prioress argued that this instrument could not refer to the plaintiffs or avail for them, inasmuch as it was clear from the writing exhibited that the grant aforesaid was made to one Simon—"Simoni"—le Lyt, which name could not be understood otherwise than as the name of a man and not of a woman; and that in all other places of the same, where the name occurs, it was used as such. She prayed for judgment accordingly, inasmuch as the grant could not be understood as made in favour of the plaintiff, as she was not named in the same by her right appellation. The plaintiffs replied that by the very words of the writing it was sufficiently clear that the grant was made to Simon the plaintiff, and not to any male person, inasmuch as in different places of the same writing the same name is determined by an adjective of the feminine gender, to wit, in the clause "confirmavimus prefate Simoni," and in that "pro quadam summa pecunie quam ab eadem Simone" &c., and in that "Warantizabimus dicte Simoni," &c. and prayed in their turn for the judgment of the court. A day was hereupon appointed to the parties for the hearing of the case, which was fixed for Monday next before the feast of S. Gregory, Pope, the 10th of April, 1342-3, and the necessary writs were issued accordingly.

Page 41.—The proximity of the Priory to the old County Prison, before that establishment was transferred to the north shore of the Ivel, is unpleasantly indicated by the proceedings of a Gaol Delivery at Yevelchestre, before

*Rott. Assis. Div. Com. $\left.\begin{matrix} N \\ 2 \\ 22 \end{matrix}\right\}$ 3. m. 56.

William Skrene and William Cheyne, the Justices assigned for that office, on Thursday next after the feast of S. James, the Apostle, 2 Henry V., the 31st of July, 1414. It appears that William atte Nassh, son of John atte Nassh, of Homere, was taken under an indictment before Robert Hill and his fellows, justices of the peace, for that he with other persons unknown did on the night of Thursday next before the feast of S. Nicholas, Bishop, 12 Henry IV., which is coincident with the 4th of December, 1410, with great violence break and escape from the gaol of our lord the king at Yevelchestre, in the custody of Richard Boyton, then sheriff of Somerset, with two levers and other fine instruments contrived for breaking the door, stocks, and other fastenings of the said gaol, used for the safe keeping of the prisoners there, and also did feloniously take and lead away John Ffisher, of Strete, the approver, and Walter atte Nassh, prisoners in the said gaol, by conveying them, with heavy fetters of iron firmly remaining round their legs, within the sanctuary of the Priory of White Hall, to wit, within the cemetery of the Church of the Holy Trinity of the same Priory. The prisoner was placed on his trial, and pleaded not guilty. The jury took a merciful view of his case, on what grounds we are not informed, and returned a verdict of not guilty of the felonies aforesaid or of any one of them.*

* Delib. Gaol. 1 & 2 Hen. V. No. 1.

Traditional Houses.

Of the following Houses, if they ever existed, I present the reader, in order to complete the subject as far as possible, with all the memorials which now remain. With regard to each and all of them, the Episcopal Registers are utterly silent, and the various departments of our national records are similarly uncommunicative. This must be held conclusive proof against the existence of any of them, at least from the thirteenth century downwards, as we should otherwise have been sure to find some evidence of their presence in notices either of the election or institution of some of their Superiors, or of other matters connected with their internal economy, the gifts of property, valuations of possessions so acquired, or of legal proceedings of some kind or other, which would either directly or indirectly prove the fact of their being. No record of the kind is now, so far as I am aware, extant, and Tradition in each instance is our only guide.

Banwell.

"Mr. Strachey thinks Banwell nunnery [Strachey calls it Monastery] was on the scite of the bishop's palace now here." (Camden, by Gough. Additions, I. 75.)

Bath.

"Ofricus rex l^s. fundator inſtituit moniales. Offa rex, ut quidam volunt, induxit Canon. Secul." (Leland, Coll. I. 80. p. 84.)

"It apperith in the Booke of the Antiquitees of the late Monasterie of Bath that King Osric in the Year of our Lord 676. did erect a Monaſterie of Nunnes at Bath, and Bertane was the firſt Abbatiſſe therof. The Prior of Bath told me, that after the Nunnes Tyme ther wer Secular Chanons in S. Peter's Chirch at Bath. paraventure Offa King of Merches set them ther. Or els the Chanons cam yn after the Danes had racid the Nunry there." (Leland, Itin. II. fol. 38. p. 67.)

"Osbrick in 666 founded a nunnery." (Camden, by Gough, I. 62.)

"This monastery was first founded in the year of our Lord 676, by Osrick a petty king of Northumberland, for the reception of a few nuns, or religious women. During the invasions of the sacrilegious Danes this house was relinquished by the religious; and at length, being totally demolished, Offa rebuilt the church, and instituted therein a society of secular canons." (Collinson, Hist. of Somers. I. 54. 1st Nos.)

It was afterwards the Abbey.

Bath. "The Bimberyes, sometime called St. Catherines, by the Sisters of that name, in a lane from thence called Binbury Lane." (Strachey's List of the Religious Houses in Somersetshire, at the end of Hemingford's Chronicle, II. 648.)

Bristol.

The only part of Bristol in the Diocese of Bath and

Wells was that south of the river Avon. The rest of the City was in the ancient Diocese of Worcester.

"Templum. Wher as now S. Lawrence Churche it was ſumetyme a Churche, as it is ſayde, S. Sepulchri, where was a Nunry." (Leland, Itin. VII. fol. 69 b. p. 91.)

Temple Street. S. Margaret's. "Ther was an Hoſpitall of old tyme where of late a Nunrye was caullyd S. Margarets." (Lel. Itin. VII. fol. 70 a. p. 92.)

Chew-Stoke.

"St. Cross in the parish of Chew-stoke, are now some enclosures, where there are foundations of buildings & a Well called St. Marye's Well. by tradition here was a little Cell for 4 Nunns, founded by Eliz. de Sancta Cruce, a family who were Lords of Moreton hard by, but I find no record of it, & it must be suppress'd before the General dissolution." (Strachey, pp. 654, 655.)

This account is copied by Collinson, Hist. of Somers. II., 101.

Frome.

"On St. Catherine's hill was a small Cell of Nuns, of which there are now no remains, dedicat to that St. & at Cayford, in the same parish, are large old Walls and buildings, said to have been a Nunnery belonging to Cirencester." (Strachey, p. 656.)

"On the top of a street called Catherine-hill, was a small cell of nuns, dedicated to that Saint, the chapel whereof, which was of considerable capacity, is now converted into several tenements." (Collinson, II. 187.)

Glastonbury.

"Wyrall the Hill, where the old Thorn grew, a park belonging to the Abby a mile out of Glaston, where is

said to have been a Nunnery dedicat to St. Peter, very conveniently scituate within the Pale of the Abby Park." (Strachey. p. 657.)

NUNNEY.

"Adjoining to the church-yard is a very ancient house, called the Court-House, now in ruins, which tradition says was erected out of the ruins of a nunnery that formerly stood upon the spot, from which circumstance the village was denominated." (Collinson, II. 221.)

SOMERTON.

"ye wche longeſpaye erected att Som'ton an abbeye of nunes. the wche suppreſſed by John. apon occaſion of sendynge of newes yn to ffrawnce. nowe the p'iſhe churche of the towne. where as. as yett there lyethe yn the churche buryed dyu'ſe of the cheffedſte nownnes. as one edithe lyethe buryed in portature of ſtone. the wche was bylyke ye ſuxten that had the rule of ye churche & howſes. & by lyke the fowndres of the ſteple. Some other affyrme that henrye the fyfte dyd suppreſſed them & many other. ffor ye buldynge of ſhene & syon, as alſo pr'uye eſpyes. ffor the ffrenche kynge." (MS. Cott. Julius, F. vi. ff. 383, 383 b.)

William Longespée, son of Henry II. and Fair Rosamund, "erected at Somerton, on the spot where now stands the parish church, a house for nuns, and endowed the same with certain lands of his demesne in Somerton. Which nunnery, according to some, is said to have been suppressed on account of the society clandestinely sending news by spies to the French King; and according to others by Henry V. for the building of the monasteries of Shene and Sion. Cotton MS. Julius, F. vi." (Collinson, III. 183.)

WITHAM.

"Henricus 2ˢ. fundator domus. Hen. 3. fundator per Camd. Primum cœnobium monialium, quod poſtea fuit primum monaſterium Carthuſianorum in Anglia." (Leland, Coll. I. 80. p. 84.)

"Witham, where Henry III. founded a nunnery." (Camden, by Gough, I. 61.)

"Here is said to have been a nunnery, but it is certain that on the coming over of the Carthusian order into England this was the first house of that order." (Additions, ib. 78.)

"Witham Camd. sayes was in the first place a Nunnery, built by Hen. 3. afterward the first Carthusian Monastery in England." (Strachey, p. 664. Speed f. 25.)

ATHELNEY is erroneously called by Sprott, and TAUNTON by Speed, (fol. 797.) a Nunnery. Bearwe, mentioned by Speed (fol. 797.) as a House of Black Nuns, is the Mynchin Barrow of this volume.

Although hardly within the scope of my subject, inasmuch as the Houses in question were wholly under the government of men, I may add that a few Sisters were usually attached to the Hospitals in the Diocese, for such various employments in those establishments as were peculiarly suited to their sex. This fact is ordinarily evidenced by the occurrence of notices, of which I select the following as characteristic examples:—

At Westminster, in the octaves of S. John Baptist, 6 Edw. I., June, 1278, a final concord was passed between

Robert, Master of the Hospital of S. John of Radeclyve, Bristol, and John Bastard and Cristina his wife, whereby the latter renounced all claim to a messuage and a virgate of land in Budecumbe, in favour of the Master and the Brethren and Sisters of the aforesaid Hospital, and presented the property in pure and free alms without any service. In return for this pious act, the Master received the aforesaid John and Cristina, and their heirs, to a perpetual participation in the good deeds and prayers of the Hospital. (Ped. Fin. 1—20 Edw. I. n. 28.)

Bishop Drokenesford wrote at Wauton on the 24th of February, in the 9th year of his consecration, 1317-8, at the instance of Edmund de Wyntershull, "valeti sui," to the Master of S. John's Hospital, Bristol, to admit a certain Alice, niece of the said Edmund, as a lay sister—"in sororem secularem." (Reg. Drok. f. clviij b.)

A licence to William de Burne, clerk, to give one messuage and one virgate of land in Dundrey, by Chiw, to Brother Thomas, Prior of the Hospital of S. John Baptist, by Redeclyve, Bristoll, and to the Brethren and Sisters of the same Hospital, was dated at Pukelchurch, X. Kal. May, the 22nd of April, 1322. (Reg. Drok. f. clxxxvij.)

John de Babecary was appointed to the Mastership of S. Katharine's Hospital, Bristol, in 1325. The injunction to the Brethren and Sisters to pay him due and canonical obedience was dated at Chyu, VII. Kal. May, the 25th of April, in that year. (Reg. Drok. f. ccxxxviij b.)

A similar missive in favour of Richard de Boresfordescote Wyk, appointed to the same office, was dated at Banewell, II. Kal. Octr., the 30th September, 1327. (Reg. Drok. f. cclxix.)

Id. Jul. the 15th of July, 1328, Milo de Monyton was admitted to the vicarage of Bacwell, at the presentation of the Master, Brethren, and Sisters of the Hospital of S. John, Bristol. (Reg. Drok. f. cccvij b.)

It is evident from the foregoing notices that these Sisters, although a part of the body corporate of their House, were in no respect Nuns in the real meaning of the word, being neither professed, in which was the essence of the Institution, nor even members of Communities exclusively consisting of women and living under female rule.

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The modern orthography is followed where necessary.

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